

Newspaper Accused of Inciting Peekskill Riots

NEW YORK — Except for the provocation of the Peekskill Evening Star, there would have been no outbreaks when Walter P. Reuther appeared at Peekskill this summer, according to a detailed report issued by the American Civil Liberties Union on Dec. 7.

As it was, the report says, the newspaper succeeded in arousing both organized veterans and youthful hoodlums to the extent that two of this country's most vicious riots followed. The rioting, it added, "embodies the combined expressions of the most explosive prejudices in American life against Communists, colored persons and Jews."

The report, backed by the NAACP, the American Veterans Committee, the Council Against Intolerance, the American Jewish Congress and the American for Democratic Action, placed major responsibility for the riots on officials.

In making its report public, ACLU announced it would begin legal action on Dec. 15 to have declared unconstitutional a recent ordinance passed by the town of Cortlandt, scene of the rioters, further restricting free speech by requiring permits for meetings. The issue will be argued by general counsel, Arthur Garfield Hays.

The investigation, which was conducted by ACLU Special Investigator Terrence McCarthy, revealed, among other things, that there was no Communist provocation at either of Reuther's two concerts; that the area was a long-smoldering bed of anti-Semitism and that terrorism was general against all who advocated freedom of speech and assembly.

In addition, it revealed that effective police protection was withheld deliberately at the first concert; that police preparations for the second appeared adequate, but "were a sham insofar as Westchester County police were concerned;" that county police openly fraternized with the rioters, and that the violence was planned.

Sweeping Meeting Ordered—

Gov. Dewey Calls Robeson Riot 'Communist Bear Trap'

ALBANY, N. Y., Sept. 15—(P)—IN HIS 1,100-WORD statement, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has ordered a sweeping Grand Jury investigation of the rioting that followed singer Paul Robeson's concert near Peekskill Sept. 4.

The governor said last night that the violence obviously was provoked by Communist groups.

He directed that a special Grand Jury be called in Westchester County to determine whether the concert was "sponsored for the purpose of deliberately inciting disorder" and whether "it was part of the Communist strategy to foment racial and religious hatreds."

He also ordered that the Grand Jury find out whether the "Communist-led guard forces," which he said accompanied the Robeson concert-goers, were a "quasi-military force."

Dewey said that the veterans who staged a protest parade during the Negro baritone's concert and the "large number" of other persons who came to express disapproval "fell into a Communist bear trap."

However, he asserted the protesters were guilty of lawlessness. He said the "entire incident was a shame and a disgrace."

DEWEY SAID that "any action by anyone, whoever he is, in violation of the rights of free speech and assembly will be investigated to the last limit of the powers of the state."

He ordered that the Grand Jury find out whether the disorders near the concert site, about 40 miles north of New York City, were the result of organized planning on the part of any individual or group.

Dewey announced his action at a news conference following a four-hour meeting with George M. Fanelli, Westchester County district attorney; Fred W. Ruscoe, sheriff of the county, and John A. Gaffney, superintendent of state police.

Fanelli told reporters he would call a special Grand Jury as soon as he could, possibly next week.

In New York a Communist spokesman said last night:

"It's clear that Dewey plans more than a whitewash. He now plans to pin the responsibility for the storm troop action at Peekskill not on the hoodlums, but on the victims."

"This force of 'guards' was military in character, operation and formation and discipline. They were equipped with weapons which, while not prohibited by law, included baseball bats, can openers, stones and cans of black and red pepper. Such weapons in the hands of an organized group could become formidable and even deadly."

UNOFFICIAL REPORTS placed the number of persons injured in the riot at more than 100. Fanelli and Ruscoe, in written reports to Dewey last week, set the figure at 70.

Both Fanelli and Ruscoe blamed teenagers for the violence.

Dewey also ordered Fanelli to complete an investigation of the violence that prevented a Robeson concert Aug. 27 at another spot near Peekskill.

In his statement, Dewey asserted: "The Communist groups obviously did provoke this incident," he said. "For a week prior to the meeting on Sept. 4, they and their associates made the most inflammatory public utterances and threats as to the size of the crowd they were going to bring into this country community and the nature of the protection forces they would bring with them."

Negro Singer Demands Probe Of Three-Hour Riot At Concert

NEW YORK, Aug. 28—(P)—Paul Robeson demanded today that Gov. Thomas E. Dewey order an investigation of the three-hour riot that broke up a scheduled concert by the Negro singer last night in Peekskill, N. Y.

Robeson also charged at a press conference that laxity of local authorities caused the riot, touched off by marching veterans' groups which had announced plans to silence the singer.

Similar calls for action by the governor came from Representative Vito Marcantonio, New York State American Labor party chairman, and officials of the Civil Rights Congress, a branch of which planned the concert.

Marcantonio said the attack on the concert "was organized with the direct knowledge and aid" of two Westchester County officials. He demanded that the governor oust them.

Marcantonio said the two officials were County Clerk Robert J. Field and Assistant District Attorney Leonard Rubinfeld.

Neither Field nor Rubinfeld could be reached for comment.

The Civil Rights Congress, which has been listed as a subversive organization by former U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark, demanded the arrest of several persons they said were "stormtrooper leaders who incited to violence."

The congress also accused Peekskill and state police of staying away from the scene until the riot was well underway although they "were well aware of the fact that mob action was being planned."

Meanwhile, some 1,500 persons, many of them persons who went to hear last night's concert, gathered this afternoon at the estate of Dr. Samuel Rosen, at Katonah, N. Y.

The estate, about 10 miles from the scene of the riot, also was the scene of a rally for Henry Wallace's Progressive party during last year's election campaign.

Mrs. Rosen said she had asked state police to send protection for today's meeting because of a "number of crank calls" and the fact that suspicious-looking persons had gathered at the foot of a hill near the estate.

Several state police were sent to the Rosen home and patrolled the roads leading to the estate.

"Postscript To Peekskill"

It appears strange that a paper such as The Washington Post would have repeated editorials regarding the Peekskill incidents and the riot of last week which displayed so little understanding of the real situation. How can any intelligent person or anyone acquainted with history but see the pattern that is being evolved in our country? What happened at Peekskill is the same as happened in Germany when "hoodlums" were given freedom to attack the Jewish people. Here it is the Communists and the Negro people.

Eyewitness victims of the attacks which followed the concert by Mr. Robeson, have clearly stated that the police did nothing to stop the "force and violence" of the mobsters, but aided and abetted them. Autos leaving the concert grounds were directed in the path of the attackers while the police helped them in their abuse of the people. A reporter stated in his paper that an officer hurled a vile epithet at and was ready to attack him but seeing his press card desisted. Photos are shown of officers throwing persons of the ground and abusing them.

This collusion of force and violence in a democratic country is a disgrace and an insult to all Americans.

GERTRUDE EVANS,
Executive Secretary, Progressive
Party of the District of Columbia.

Thanks for your September 10 editorial, "Postscript to Peekskill." You are absolutely right. I am of the same opinion and wish to be counted as one of those who refuse to believe that this contention is an "attack on a whole people" but is "purely personal," and in this case one person in particular. Let others who think and act as he does take heed. There are still some people in the country who do not intend to put up with it without protest.

F. L.
Washington.

Your defense of Governor Dewey's handling of the situation indicates that you probably paid no attention to the Associated Press photographs which showed police and deputies attacking not hoodlums but the people they were supposed to be protecting. The best example shows a Negro being clubbed by several guardians of law and order at once. Since these photographs clearly deny your case that the police were in hand to prevent violence it is rather unusual that you did not see fit to print them. Other photographs, in the same vein, were available from the International News Service. Thus you have been scooped by the Washington edition of the Pittsburgh Courier.

A further, and even more incomprehensible portion of your September 12 editorial, "Postscript to Peekskill," contains the following sentence: "Thus to uphold the right of free assembly

in his (Robeson's) case is to risk the possibility of riot." This calls to mind the attitude of the sheriffs of many rural Southern communities, who refuse to protect lynch victims from a mob because there would be a riot, they say. This attitude you have roundly and righteously condemned in the past, so you must have suffered a change of heart.

It is very easy to defend someone's right to differ when the mob does not object, but there is also no reason to defend such opinions. The right to differ not only in a minor but in a major sense is what distinguishes Americans from most other peoples. Capitalism and pro-American sentiment are subject to violence. Merely substituting different taboos in the United States does not make the violence any sweeter. S. P. B.
Washington.

Second Robeson Riot Left Injured Toll of 75; Slated Sunday Concert Goes on

Robeson Sings

Peekskill, N. Y.—Rioting, scuffling and stone-throwing which raged for eight hours after Paul Robeson sang near Peekskill, N. Y., Sunday afternoon, left an injured toll of at least 75.

Upwards of 1,200 state, county and local police—the greatest law enforcement concentration ever massed in the area—succeeded in preventing a pitched battle between 15,000 concert-goers and 2,500 veterans and anti-Communists.

But the police were unable to stop stone-throwing barrages that greeted vehicles leaving the abandoned golf course, and caused most of the injuries.

(At Albany, James C. Hagerty, executive assistant to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, said the governor is waiting for full reports on the affair from the sheriff and district attorney of Westchester County, and would have no comment until they are received.

Sunday, the governor had warned the officials that he would hold them responsible for preservation of order at the meeting.)

32 Treated

Thirty-two people were treated at Peekskill hospital, 28 received first-aid at an open air infirmary and 17 were treated in New York City on their return.

Twenty arrests were reported by police, and many other persons were taken into temporary custody. Violations ranged from littering the highway to carrying concealed weapons. Some 300 baseball bats were confiscated from 2,500 members of the Robeson party who formed a protective ring around the concert area.

The pro-Soviet baritone's appearance was in protest against a veteran's demonstration on Aug. 27 which prevented him from singing at Lakeland Acres, near Peekskill. On that day, rioting between Robesonites and the demonstrators injured 13 persons.

Robeson's voice amplified over a powerful loud-speaking system Sunday, succeeded in making itself heard over a chorus of catcalls, boos, bugle-and-drum blasts, and automobile exhausts. His repertoire included "Old Man River," "Go Down Moses" and "Solidarity Forever."

Representatives of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Catholic War Veterans and the Jewish War Veterans were in the line of march outside the concert grove at 1:30 p.m. After the concert crowd had moved in, and the protective ring formed, the demonstrators made several attempts to crash into the enclosed area, but were pressed back by police.

The real conflict did not start until after the concert had concluded at about 3:30 p.m. An hour later the first car left the area and was forced to run a gauntlet of rocks and sticks. Missiles were rained from tree-tops and nearer the town, from roof-tops.

Police said the rock-throwing took place as far south as Tarrytown. Many sight-seeing busses carrying week-end vacationists, who had not attended the concert were subject to the barrages.

A second round of scuffling took place late Sunday night when a "rear guard" of Robeson supporters departed. "The guard" was searched by state and county police and several fights took place before the Robesonites were divested of their bats.

In New York, Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP) said that the injured included Paul Ross, one-time aide to the late Mayor LaGuardia. Irving Potash, furriers union official and one of the 11 Communists on trial in New York City, also was reported hurt.

Robeson's Version of Peekskill Riots May Be Kept From Grand Jury by D.A.

Fanelli, Censured for Role With Police,

Appointed Prosecutor by Governor Dewey

ALBANY, N.Y.—District Attorney George M. Fanelli last week refused to say whether Paul Robeson would be called before the grand jury which will inquire into two recent outbreaks of violence near Peekskill where one concert by the renowned baritone was canceled and another held.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey on Sept. 14 ordered a "complete, unlimited and exhaustive" grand jury inquiry into the outbreaks after a four and a half hour conference with the district attorney and Sheriff W. Ruscoe of Westchester County.

Communists Blamed

The Governor opined that the disorders were provoked deliberately by Communist sympathizers of Mr. Robeson, but called them "a shame and a disgrace."

He asserted that participants in the anti-Communist demonstrations incident to the concerts had fallen into a Communist "bear trap," and had unwittingly furnished grist for party propaganda all over the United States, Europe, South America and Africa.

jury investigation would cover:

1. All the disorders which broke out after the Sept. 4 meeting, and whether they were the result of organized planning by any individual or group.

'Guards' Named

2. Whether the meeting was initiated and sponsored to deliberately incite disorder and a breach of the peace, and whether it was part of the Communist strategy to foment racial and religious hatred.

3. Whether the Communist-led guard forces are a quasi-military force... "Storm troopers or private militia... will not be tolerated in New York. We have abolished the Bund and the Ku Klux Klan and we will not permit similar Communist organizations to exist."

The Governor declared:

"Any violation of the rights of free speech and assembly of one group is an injury to the right of all. Wherever such a violation occurs it must be scorned and repudiated, even though the incident were deliberately provoked."

Governor Pats Police, D. A.

Police arrangements for the second Robeson concert, in which the District Attorney participated, were widely criticized throughout the nation, but Governor Dewey praised the arrangements nevertheless.

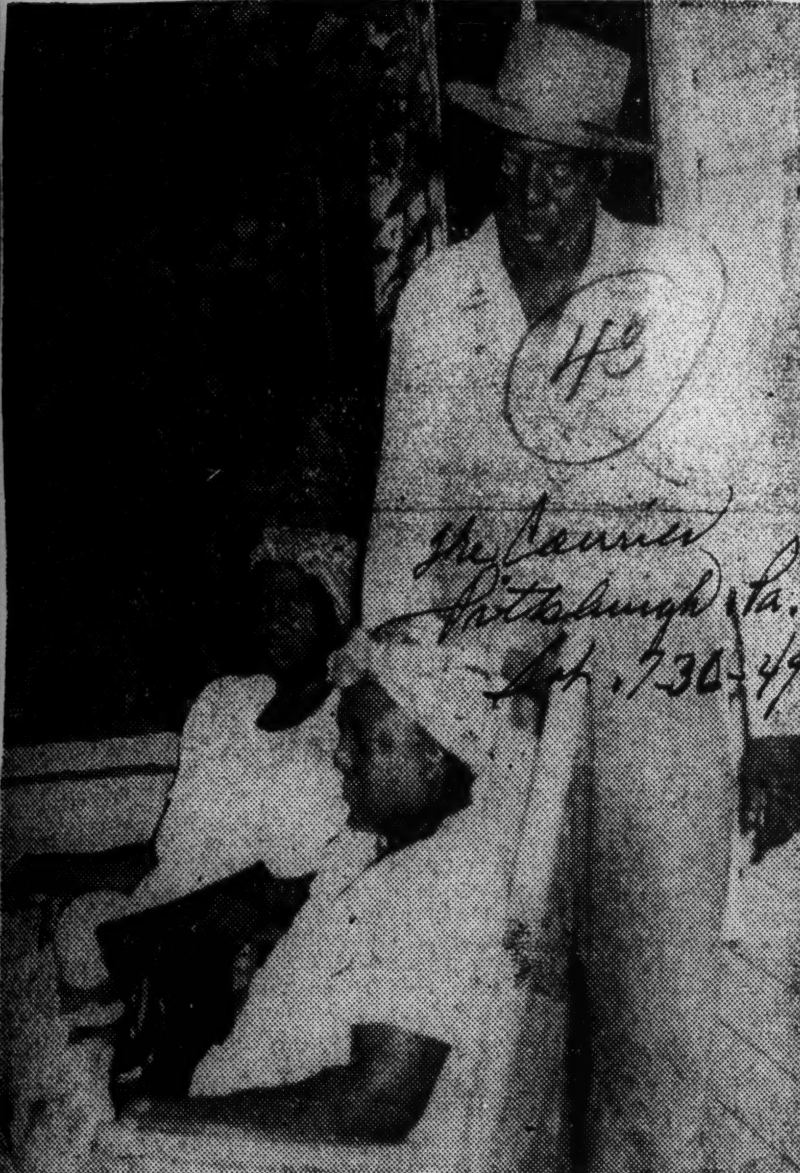
When asked if he had considered supplanting Mr. Fanelli in the grand jury investigation, the Governor said he knew he was present during the second riot, but that the violence was some distance from the actual concert scene.

The District Attorney will have charge of presenting the evidence to the jury, and Governor Dewey said he had his assurance that he would proceed "promptly, vigorously and impartially."

All but Robeson Sought

Mr. Fanelli repeated the assurances after the Governor's announcement and emphasized that he would "call everyone who can throw any light on what happened," but refused to say whether this would include Mr. Robeson.

Governor Dewey said the grand



Democracy, USA — Bah!—Driven from their homes near Groveland, Fla., by a white mob for a crime with which they had nothing at all to do, these people find temporary refuge in Orlando, Fla. Left to right: Mrs. Lorraine Baron, Mrs. Ida Mae Ridley and W. M. Felton.—Diaz Photo.

Fla. Refugees Live in Fear

(Special to The Courier)

GROVELAND, Fla. — Thoroughly terrorized and in fear of their lives, most of the four hundred colored residents who fled this area last week, escaping whites who carried guns and torch authority, have refused to return to their homes in this citrus-raising community. In the meantime a speedy trial is scheduled for three of the rape-robbery suspects whose alleged acts precipitated the mob violence.

Pouring into state authorities last week were requests from several civil rights associations urging that action be taken against known

New York

his 17-year-old bride, has not been apprehended. The girl was Mrs. Willy Padget. 7-30-49

Quick indictments and promise of a speedy trial for the accused men were made in an effort to forestall further violence by the still dissatisfied mobsters. The indictments were made at nearby Travares, county seat, where one Negro, March Debose, a truck driver, was a member of the panel of eighteen who handed down the true bills against Samuel Shepard, Walter Irvin and Charles Greenlee, 23, 21 and 17, respectively.

SUSPECTS HELD SAFE

They are being held in custody of Sheriff W. V. McCall of Lake County at Raiford State Prison. Late last week a detachment of more than 200 National Guardsmen were still on duty, patrolling the community to curb violence after the burning of Negroes' homes and considerable shooting of firearms by others.

At week's end, liquor sales in the community had been stopped and officials notified whites that any persons taking further part in mob demonstrations would be arrested.

Circuit Judge T. G. Futch, in whose court the indictments were handed down, said that he would call a special court session within ten days to try the youths who were indicted Thursday evening. Earlier in the week the NAACP wired Governor Fuller to return or keep the guardsmen on duty for protection of Negro life and property in the area.

ACTION DEMANDED

The request had been made after it was rumored that guardsmen had been removed from duty in the community of Groveland. Further pressure for action was directed at Senator J. Howard McGrath (D-R. I.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Sub-committee on Civil Rights, and Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York. 7-30-49

The NAACP also dispatched a message to Attorney General Tom Clark, requesting an investigation of the riot, "to ascertain whether Federal violations have occurred."

It was reported from the Department of Justice that the agency is now awaiting a report from the FBI which was on the scene of the violence last week. In the meantime, the NAACP is reported conducting an independent investigation of the Florida reign of terror.

State Troopers and Police Praised

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

A most quotable author of the early Nineteen Hundreds has one of his characters say:

"When numerous bodies of highly trained men arrive simultaneously in the same latitude from opposite directions, each remarking briskly, 'What the hell did you do that for?' detonation, as you might say, is practically

(Paul Robeson Concert)

assured."

You probably know that was Kipling. If he was as much dead as he should be, perhaps the New York State authorities, from Governor Dewey down to the Councils of the small towns involved, might have used better judgment about the Robeson meeting near Peekskill. They could have refused permission for either the Communist gathering or the veteran parade on the entirely sensible grounds that on the Labor Day week-end roads are too congested to allow any increase. Any other week-end would have been more practical; any other would have prevented the chance that wholly innocent travelers would be endangered—like the bus load of merry-makers returning from a clam bake, who took the wrong road and got stoned. Instead, control of the day was left to state troopers, police and deputies, who had a busy and anxious time with the resulting mess. All honor to them that they managed it without a serious riot and with few casualties.

B. B. PERRINE.
Bloomfield, N. J., Sept. 5, 1949.

BACKERS ASK U.S. INTERVENTION

Robeson Charges That 'Police Attacked Us'

cert by the Negro left-wing singer.

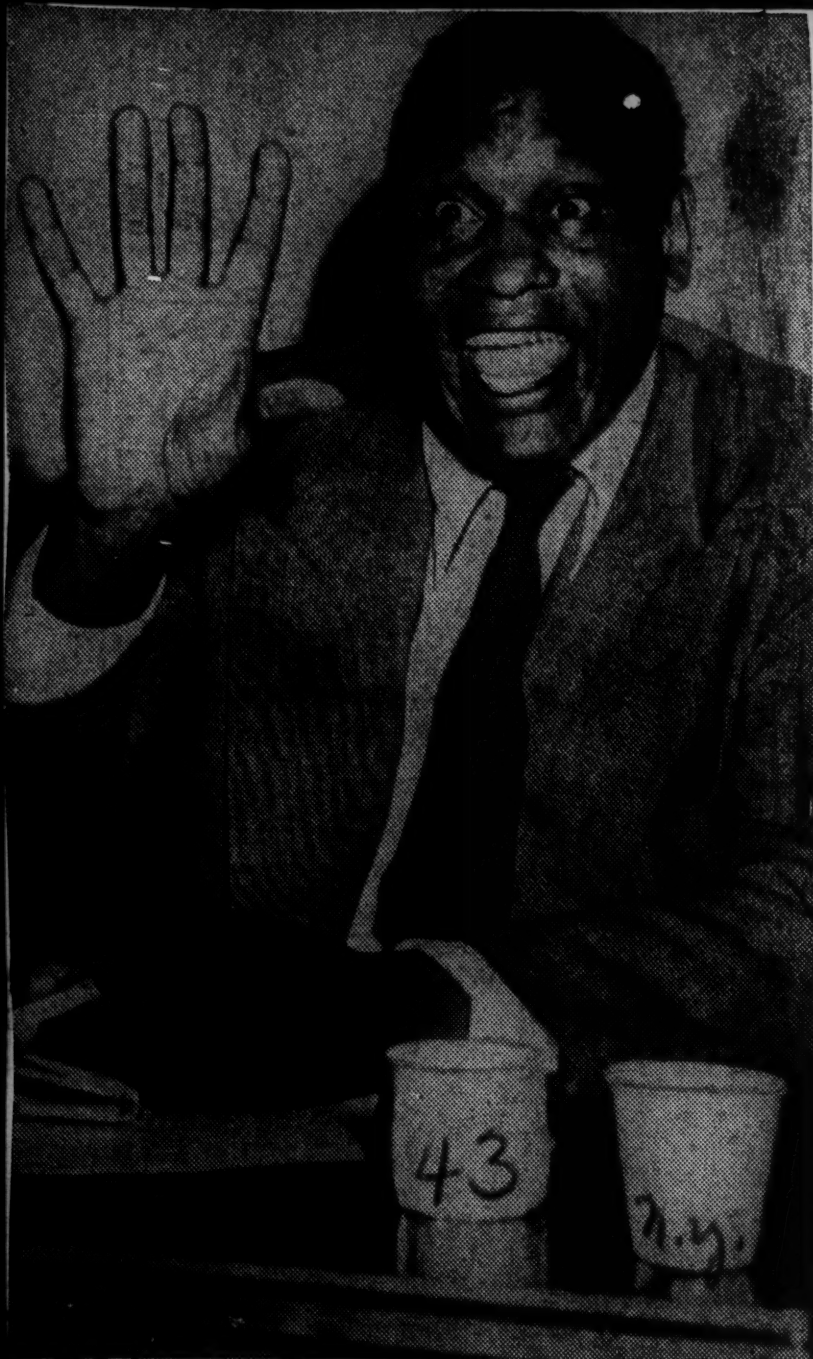
Among the law enforcement officers were some 250 State Troopers mobilized from a wide area by order of Gov. Dewey to prevent an outbreak of violence such as marked a scheduled Robeson concert in the same area a week previously.

the concert was over, Robeson's supporters set the figure at 200. Eight autos and an empty bus were returned. "There can be no argument," Robeson said. "We were attacked by arms of the State and local governments."

IN ALBANY, Press Secretary James C. Hagerly said Gov. Dewey was waiting for detailed reports from the district attorney and sheriff of Westchester County and the superintendent of State Police.

OTHER DEMANDS were voiced from the impeachment of Gov. Dewey, Thomas E. Dewey and Westchester County officials.

About 1,000 police — largest concentration of its kind in the state's history — kept the hostile groups separate during the concert. At least 100 were injured after



Baritone Paul Robeson gesturing at news conference in New York after riot that caused cancelation of his concert in picnic grove near Peekskill, N. Y. (AP wirephoto)

BACK FROM WORLD TOUR:

Race Riots Played Up Abroad, Says White

NEW YORK—The race riots in the United States are being played up in Moscow and India with "enormous effect," declared Walter White last week upon his return to the States with the 'Round-the-World Town Meeting group. The NAACP executive secretary only participation of colored people in American life." During the tour, he continued, are publicizing the riots as "the American representatives and

friends of America told me that this is the most serious question with which they are constantly confronted.

Everywhere he went, especially in the Orient, he was questioned about race relations in the States, he said.

Two With Touring Group
Mr. White, who with Mrs. Edith Sampson of the National Council of Negro Women, was an official member of the touring group, said further:

"There is ample evidence to believe that participation in this world tour by the National Council and the NAACP has projected the race question onto the world scene as nothing else in contemporary history.

"One interesting example of the new respect gained is the number of requests for detailed information about the NAACP and its structure which were made by minority groups in various countries who wish to model their organizations on the NAACP."

Joined Party in Rome
Mr. White left New York on July 9 and joined the party in Rome, continuing with the group through the Near East, India, the Philippines, Japan and Hawaii. He participated in international broadcasts from Karachi and Rome.

In addition to these, there were a number of local broadcasts in each of the cities visited and almost daily seminars with government officials, labor leaders, representatives of the press, religious groups, women's and professional organizations.

In New Delhi he was the dinner guest of Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India.

Robeson Rumpus

THE air is filled with charges and counter-charges, denunciations and demands for all sorts of action as a result of the deplorable rioting and violence in Peekskill, N. Y., a few days ago in connection with a scheduled appearance of Paul Robeson and supporting entertainers there.

There has been so much contradictory testimony on both sides and so many angles to the case that have not as yet been cleared up, that we feel judgments should be suspended until such time as all the facts are in.

There is no disputing the fact that several persons were injured, that automobiles were overturned and that much vandalism was committed, nor is there any doubt that the scheduled performance did not take place for these reasons.

While members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Catholic and Jewish War Veterans did stage a parade demonstration, and significantly disbanded at the picnic grounds where the violence occurred, there is no certainty that the Ku Klux Klan had any part in the disturbance, that the outbreak was anti-Negro or that the war veterans were solely responsible for it.

The outrage was anti-Robeson and anti-Communist rather than anti-Negro, and as inexcusable as it was, the fact cannot be ignored that the left-wing group must have anticipated just such an occurrence and was prepared for it, as evidenced by the bringing of thirty-two "guards" and six bus loads of sympathizers from New York who formed a large part of the audience of 300.

In view of the fact that some Negroes are identified with unpopular and in some instances with subversive movements which have aroused the ire of large segments of the population, we should hesitate to charge that every fracas in which Negroes are involved is necessarily anti-Negro.

In the present national and international tension, this is no time for hysterical jumping to conclusions.

All factions have a responsibility to us restraint in speech and action and to have the patience to withhold judgement until all

of the evidence is in. For this reason, however, higher authorities should not permit minor official to make investigations of their own apparent derelictions of duty, and they should insist upon the punishment of those who fail to provide adequate police supervision and protection of all gatherings where political feelings are apt to run high.

Intolerance

Intolerance, as it raises its ugly head against Paul Robeson, recalls the vicious attitude of the Slavocrats against Frederick Douglass back in the heroic days of John Brown. Brown and Douglass were fast friends and before his insurrection at Harpers Ferry, Brown sought to get Douglass to join him in his perilous mission.

But the moment that John Brown was jailed and authorities began to investigate his friends and associates, attention turned immediately to Douglass, who was charged by Governor Wise of Virginia as an accomplice and conspirator in the crime.

Douglass had to leave his home in Rochester, New York, and flee to Canada and thence to England. It was during the period that a paper in New York state suggested that his newspaper plant, the North Star, be dumped into the lake. During this period Douglass' home was burned to the ground.

Surely there should be more tolerance in America today than there was in the United States at that time, but apparently there is not when the rights of Negroes are involved. We recall when the Elaine riots occurred down in Arkansas a quarter of a century ago, authorities immediately attributed this disorder to W. E. B. DuBois, who at that time was editor of the Crisis magazine, and probably has never met a single man connected with the trouble at Hoop Spur. It would, however, have been dangerous for DuBois to have arrived in any part of Arkansas just at that time, although he was guilty of nothing more than being black and publishing a magazine that defended with vigor the rights of black people.

When the Tulsa race riot occurred in 1921, authorities immediately launched a search for A. J. Smitherman, editor of the Tulsa Star, although all of the evidence produced with reference to this unfortunate experience that visited unhappy Tulsa, showed that the riot started from an altercation in an elevator down town between a Negro youth and a white girl. Smitherman had nothing to do with this incident, but intolerance decided to launch an attack on him because of his militant newspaper. The atmosphere was ripe to get rid of Smitherman. The writer recalls he sent Smitherman the money to get out of the state in care of Dr. G. T. Grey, (deceased) who at that time was head of the NAACP in McAlester.

We point to all of this to account in a way for the unreasonable bigotry that attempts to prevent Paul Robeson from singing and speaking around over the nation. Robeson has decided to make a nation-wide tour under the auspices of the civil rights league, and there are those who are equally determined that he shall not be heard. His scheduled address in Los Angeles on the 30th of this month is already causing much confusion in the City of the Angels. It is certain the West Coast have not heeded the demand of intolerance that Robeson be denied the right of free speech.

In Paul Robeson we run squarely into a fundamental question. Do we have free speech in this country? Do we have the right of free assembly? It is poor argument to say a man is attempting to incite to riot when he attempts to exercise his inherent and fundamental right in citizenship. Paul Robeson makes his living singing. Is it to be said he shall be denied the right to work because his work might create a

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)

not? The thing for government to do is lock up the rioters and permit an American citizen the right to gainful employment.

An honest appraisal of the Peekskill disorder would assess evil intentions upon the American Legion and all of those who foregathered to halt and thwart peaceful assembly and free speech. This is the un-American conspiracy that has caused all of the trouble.

We think there has been enough shame and dishonor that has fallen universally upon America because of the Peekskill riot, for the people in this country to profit by the unfortunate experience. We think the city fathers in Los Angeles have pointed to the proper procedure that any sensible American should follow when a speaker or a program comes to his community he does not endorse. Just treat the affair with silence, but under no conditions attempt to prevent other people who are inclined to the logic and philosophy of the messenger from hearing that which they seek to hear.

Then there is the more fundamental rule of democracy having to do with the will of the majority. It appears in New York there were some 15,000 who desired to hear Paul Robeson, whereas the dissident group numbered less than one-tenth of this number. We suspect that this is fairly representative of the feeling the length and breadth of this nation. At any rate, the announced intention of Robeson to proceed with his national itinerary should have the firm support of government in every community where he appears. Now, with the world in the dither it is in about the control and use of the atom, the best assurance democracy has for its perpetuity is to offer to all of its citizens a full measure of democracy.

North, Too, Is Bad In Race Relations, Mrs. FDR Tells Southerners

ATLANTA, Sept. 8—(P)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt today accused the North of being as bad in race relations as the South.

"I don't think the South is all to blame," she said. "We are quite as bad and wrong in many ways in the North."

Undoubtedly, she added, violence growing out of Paul Robeson's concert in Peekskill, N. Y., will be the first thing the Russian delegation will bring up at the next meeting of the United Nations.

She termed the Robeson affair "perfectly outrageous." "I don't know why police were not able to control better the demonstration, perhaps they were pathetic."

The Robeson concert, which

Gov. Thomas Dewey called "Communist inspired," resulted in heated fights between supporters of the Negro baritone and youths and veterans groups.

For Soviet criticism of such incidents as the Robeson affair, Mrs. Roosevelt said she had a stock answer in meetings of the United Nations committee for human rights, of which she is chairman. "I always tell them that I recognize their criticism and agree it is valid," she explained. "But then I add we at least know of the inequality and have people who want to change them."

Mrs. Roosevelt said she then always pointed out Russian delegates never criticized their country either through fear or apathy of their people "who perhaps can no longer dream of a better system."

In a news conference before the meeting Mrs. Roosevelt said she did not consider President Truman's civil rights program a logical excuse for racial violence.

Some critics, who blame the program in part for the South's recent resurgence of violence,



Eleanor Roosevelt

should look at the civil rights proposals from a world-wide, rather than a local view, she suggested.

Comparing the Ku Klux Klan to an anonymous letter, she criticized the "kind of action which is not in the open and does not take responsibility for its viewpoint."

The conference on "Spiritual Approach to Social Problems" is sponsored by the Southern Regional Council in cooperation with church women's groups and the national board of the YWCA. Delegates represented both white and Negro church women of several denominations from 19 Southern states.

Scores Injured As Rocks Hurlled At Robeson Fans

Eight Autos And Bus Overturned; Glass Shattered In Others

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Sept. 5—(P)

Scores of persons were injured and windows in hundreds of automobiles were shattered last night as a throng leaving a Paul Robeson concert ran into a barrage of rocks.

At least eight autos and an empty bus were overturned, and an auto was set afire as demonstrators against the leaving Negro singer got beyond the control of almost 1,000 law enforcement officers.

GLASS SPLINTERS were so thick on some spots of road that it looked as if a sleet storm had hit the Westchester County suburbs.

Fifty-four persons were treated at hospitals. Fourteen persons were arrested on various charges, and about two score others were taken into temporary protective custody.

The barrage of stones, bottles and other missiles was fired by knots of anti-leftists scattered along three roads up to distances of five miles. Many of the bus and auto passengers were women and children.

THE OFFICERS—including about 250 state troopers mobilized from a wide area on Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's orders—prevented any serious violence at the concert.

A helicopter was in contact with police radio posts in the area but they were unable to cope with the attacks that flared with increasing intensity from town-to-town as the concert-goers headed home.

Peekskill Riots

As the Washington representative of the Civil Rights Congress, those Harlem affiliate received the proceeds of the Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, N. Y., last week, I have reserved comment until now upon your editorial treatment of the Peekskill incident.

Since a number of organizations, including the Washington Civil Rights Congress, have invited Mr. Robeson to appear at Turner's Arena, tribulation, after the initial attack to concede that those who hurl on the American scene when a newspaper takes the position that it is an act of provocation to schedule a concert, and that it is more to mob action merely because it is an organization which does so "invites" mob violence by the

ominous episode. On September 6, after further mob violence posed bid for martyrdom, rather than a local view, she suggested. Comparing the Ku Klux Klan to an anonymous letter, she criticized the "kind of action which is not in the open and does not take responsibility for its viewpoint."

The conference on "Spiritual Approach to Social Problems" is sponsored by the Southern Regional Council in cooperation with church women's groups and the national board of the YWCA. Delegates represented both white and Negro church women of several denominations from 19 Southern states.

more primitive music-lovers who prefer the crashing discords of their own brass band, the tinkle of broken glass, and the dull thud of cracked skulls.

The Post persists in its failure to give sufficient emphasis to the fact that the concert audience on both occasions contained a large proportion of Negroes, and that their attackers, all of whom were white, shouted anti-Negro slogans which bore absolutely no relation to Mr. Robeson's political views. Physical and verbal abuse was directed primarily against the Negro members of the crowd, and also against the Jewish concert-goers.

The most glaring omission in your reports of the Peekskill affair has been the failure to lay the blame directly upon the local and State law-enforcement officers. The Post has accepted the official myth that approximately 1000 police were "unable" to deal with an approximately equal number of hoodlums.

The New York office of the Civil Rights Congress has evidence, documented with photographs and affidavits, that the police themselves participated in the attacks upon men, women and children peacefully leaving the scene of the concert; that they dragged men from cars and beat them unmercifully; that they deliberately halted vehicles, so that the rioters could stone them from close range; that they not only refused Paul Robeson a police escort, but smashed the windshield of his car with a deputy's nightstick; that they joked and fraternized with law-breakers who were piling up stones with which to assault the departing concert-goers, and pretended not to notice when the stones were thrown.

I refer you to the eyewitness accounts of these events in the September 6 issue of the Washington Afro-American, or the September 10 Pittsburgh Courier, which has a front-page picture of a group of uniformed policemen raining blows upon a single defenseless Negro.

A newspaper must be singularly insensitive to history—and very recent history, at that—if it cannot see in the hate-ridden mob dancing around the bonfire of Paul Robeson's music at Peekskill an exact and deadly parallel with the book-burning orgies of Hitler's Brownshirts.

THOMAS G. BUCHANAN, JR.
National Legislative Director, Civil Rights Congress,
Washington.

Teen-Agers Blamed For Robeson Riots

By International News Service

ALBANY, N. Y. — Blame for last Sunday's rioting after Paul Robeson's concert near Peekskill has been placed on teen-agers again.

In a report issued by Gov. Dewey's office on Saturday, Sheriff W. Ruscoe of Westchester county said:

"The teen-agers had to be removed from trees and billboard signs from which position they could readily cause damage and injury by throwing rocks into cars."

A report by Westchester District Attorney Fanelli made similar charges.

Robeson meanwhile has decided not to attend another meeting scheduled about 20 miles south of Peekskill and across the Hudson River from it.

Truman Scores Riot at Peekskill

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—President Truman last Thursday endorsed Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt's view in which she condemned violence following the Paul Robeson concert at Peekskill, New York.

At Mr. Truman's press conference last Thursday, a reporter prefaced his question with the statement that Mrs. Roosevelt in her column last Wednesday had referred to the Peekskill rioting as disgraceful and mob lawlessness.

"Have you any comment?" asked the reporter.

Mr. Truman replied that he thought Mrs. Roosevelt had covered the situation perfectly and thoroughly. In her column of last Wednesday, Mrs. Roosevelt said in part:

"Now that I have had time to read the results of all the efforts that were made to keep peace at the concert near Peekskill, N.Y., and the amount of real harm that was done despite all of the police officers, I think I must reiterate that it seems to me quite disgraceful to allow this kind of lawlessness."

Should Be Permitted to Speak

"One hundred and forty-five people were injured. Fifty buses were stoned, and a number of private cars, many of which did not contain people who had been at this concert, were molested and damaged."

"This is not the type of thing that we believe in in the United

States. If peaceful picketing leads to this, all the pickets do is to give the Communists good material for propaganda.

"I dislike everything that Paul Robeson is now saying. I am opposed to him politically and I think he is doing great harm to his own people. But if he wants to give a concert or speak his mind in public, no one should prevent him from doing so."

Hats Off to Governor Dewey

A striking victory for the democratic way of life was staged in Peekskill, New York, Sunday, when 12,000 loyal American citizens who believe in free speech and free assembly, had the courage to brave a threatening mob that lurked around the roadway to the park area where Paul Robeson sang, and listened to the noted singer as he lilted and talked. The meeting was held under auspices of the National Civil Rights Congress. *Black Dispatch*

Governor Thomas H. Dewey, of New York, is to be given great credit for the stern methods he adopted to see that law and order were not completely broken down in the Peekskill area as it was a week prior. Despite the alertness of the chief executive there was open and flagrant violations of the law as it relates to peaceful assembly which should be following with indictment and prosecution of those who sought to set aside constitutional guarantees and Hitlerize the Empire state. *Sat. 9-10-49*

In a discussion of the Robeson episode and the issues leading up to the mob spirit existing in New York state, it should be kept in mind that Robeson has violated no statute, either of the State of New York or the United States. It's the fellows who armed themselves with clubs and guns and marched on the park Sunday who openly and with malice aforethought violated the American charter of freedom, and sought to stamp holes in the Bill of Rights.

However much the remarks Robeson has made in and out of the United States respecting our pattern of living have disturbed people, it should be kept in mind that this nation was founded on protest, and we have written it into our fundamental charter that the right of petition shall remain inviolate for citizens. When Paul Robeson was speaking in Paris, and later in Russia he was offering protest to conditions that exist in his homeland and from the amount of recognition that has been given to what he has had to say by members of congress, the Un-American Committee and other units of government, we consider those speeches the most effective petition to government itself for redress of grievances than efforts of other American Negroes. The truth is, Robeson's exposure respecting second-class citizenship of the Negro in this country in foreign climes is perhaps the cause of this sudden rise of screaming hate and vengeance. Other Negroes have said the same things at various times at home but their voice does not have the resonance of Robeson's.

One thing is certain, measured by the yardstick of numbers, Robeson had more endorsers and supporters in Peekskill Sunday than the mob who opposed him. News reports say that 12,000 came to hear his program, while a mob of 1500 was held at leash on the outside of the park. When one looks from that angle at the Sunday picture it seems the mob did serious damage to reaction. We know now there was more noise than numbers in their ranks. We think the picture drawn Sunday of the size of reaction is fairly representative of the true situation all over America. A few bullies seek to arbitrarily dictate the thought and action of a community, but thanks to Governor Dewey and the New York state police, their intent and purpose were thwarted.

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)

We are of the opinion, however, that those who attempted to repeat their unlawful efforts Sunday are guilty of inciting to riot. They knew in advance what their previous parade had brought about, and the fact that Sunday they appeared, according to radio announcements, with rocks and clubs, causes the casual onlooker to assume they were fuming for battle. It is a sad day in America when we find men who have worn the uniform of the United States army lending leadership and support to a demoralizing program that will eventually destroy the very thing which in essence all true American hold dear.

We would be loath to feel that veterans who fought in foreign wars would return home and enter into any type of understanding or collusion with the order of Ku Klux Klan, and yet there is seeming unity of some sort when at the time of the first outbreak (last Saturday night week) and again the past Saturday night fiery crosses were burned at the scene of the riot and in other sections of the klan-infested South. It could well be asked with fear and trembling, "What is the secret understanding existing today in America between our war veterans and the vile order of the Ku Klux Klan?"

While we wish to commend Governor Dewey for the prompt action he took in the last Sunday incident, we entirely disagree with him in his determination to have this ugly situation investigated by officials in the county where the riot occurred. Blood is thicker than water, and all of our experiences with mobs indicate there is sufficient public sentiment in the county where these disorders occur, to effectuate a complete miscarriage of justice. Westchester county is going to give itself a clean bill of health when asked to investigate itself.

We want to repeat here: One does not have to agree with what Paul Robeson has said in his various speeches to denounce the Peekskill outrage. The basic question involved in the New York difficulty is vested in free speech and free assembly. Those who sought to break up the Robeson meeting had a perfect right to call a meeting in another park and talk themselves blue in the face denouncing Paul Robeson, if they so desired. It is their American right to talk a minute or a month, but intolerance immediately enters when they refuse to allow Paul Robeson that same right, and refuse to allow willing listeners to hear what Robeson has to say. The plan of the New York veterans means government by dictation and the destruction of democracy.

The action of the Peekskill veterans will, however, have constructive value. We wager there are thousands in that bailiwick who have within the past week taken a post course regarding the dangers of tyranny and violence lurking at our very doorsteps than they have ever had before. We should adopt the liberalism of the English, where any man who wants to talk about the government can climb on a stepladder or a stump and bellow his lungs out. In that atmosphere of freedom those who talk foreign "isms" secure few followers. The program of violence adopted by the veterans will without question swing to the Robeson cause thousands who will instantly observe the danger extant for basic freedoms. They will not be able to see the forest for the trees.

witnessed. Lands Troopers' Work Mr. Fanelli places most of the blame on the actions of "teen age" youngsters. He admits that a few of the older veterans had something to do with the disorder that his 900 policemen were unable to prevent. But he ends up by actually commending the work of the State Troopers and other policemen for not allowing the situation to be worse than it was. I have carefully read Mr. Fanelli's report and noted that in it Mr. Fanelli deals primarily with the things he could not possibly have seen and very little with the things he actually saw. In other words Mr. Fanelli goes into detail of what was reported to him as having happened to the concert-goers on the roads for a radius of 10 miles around the concert area. However, he says very little of the action which took place at the main entrance, where he stood all day, surrounded (for some unknown reason) by the bulk of the 900 men detailed to police the entire area. Officers Wrought Greatest Injury While the overturned cars and the smashed windows of busses and private cars indicate the hell which the concert goers must have gone through further down the road after leaving the concert area, the greatest injuries and the most violent punishment which Robeson's followers received occurred inside the main entrance to the concert area at the hands of the police themselves. This violence, initiated by the troopers, themselves, started a few minutes after 6 p.m. Concerning this phase of the "Battle of Peekskill," Mr. Fanelli has this to say to the Governor: "All that was left of the concert by 6:30 p.m., was the large body of men which had formed

District Attorney's Report Clears Officers of Blame

NEW YORK (NNPA)—Any newspaperman worthy of the title of a "reporter" who witnessed the breakdown of law and order at Peekskill, last Sunday, following the Paul Robeson concert is forced to take exception to the Westchester County district attorney's report written to Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. The report handed in by Dis-main entrance to the concert area tract Attorney George M. Fanelli for the greater portion of the day amounts to an official "white wash" of the actions of "Troopers, Park Police and special deputies who initiated the violence themselves. As one who stood only a few same incidents which both of us

the guard around the perimeter of the concert grounds. These men were directed by the police officials to leave the scene and they went to the cars and buses and proceeded to leave.

Doesn't Tell Whole Story

"As one of the automobiles bearing a number of these guards passed through the police line on the dirt road within the concert grounds, one of the guards swung at a trooper with a baseball bat. This car and all other cars bearing guards were then searched for weapons."

Mr. Fanelli then goes on to point out that police found monkey wrenches, bats and other weapons in the car. He says then that the cars were then permitted to leave.

What Mr. Fanelli does not describe is the brutality that followed when the troopers began to search the cars. It is true that

they found bats in the cars, because it is true that the Robeson followers had bats. But that is far from all the story.

Cowardice Hinted

The troopers had discreetly stayed away from the Robeson guards all day and at the time of their attack upon them their numbers had dwindled from the original 2,000 to about 500, who had not gone home simply because their bus drivers refused to buck the violence all buses met in leaving the area.

These men were seated peacefully in their cars in a straight line down the dirt road, with about 75 cars lined up bumper to bumper.

When the troopers moved in they did not send one or two troopers down the line to search the cars. Instead they massed up at the first car, dragged the occupants from the cars and literally beat them into the dusty road.

Then they collected their bats and other weapons and ordered them to crawl back in and go on.

Smashed Windows With Clubs

Then they would start down to the next car, but as the preceding car would drive off they would smash its windows with their clubs and break off the car's tail lights as it drove away. If Mr. Fanelli did not see this it was only because he had his eyes closed.

The report that the cars contained all men is also erroneous. When the troopers began to beat the men in the first car, the other occupants of the vehicles in the rear of the line got out of their cars and stood on the side of them to witness the brutality that was going on.

In this group were a large number of women and children. The women, horrified when they saw what was happening, put up a wall of screams which were heard all over the concert area and it

was impossible for Mr. Fanelli not to have heard it, even if he had been over on the other side of the road, where he was not.

Beat 75 Cars' Occupants

This beating continued until the 75 cars were searched, with some occupant of each car being given a beating by the troopers.

Mr. Fanelli makes no mention in his report that Mr. Robeson had requested police escort to and from the concert area. Shortly after 12 noon, I walked up to Mr. Fanelli and asked him if such an escort had been provided.

He told me that he had told the Robeson group that there was "ample police protection" in the area and that he did not consider such an escort necessary.

Nor did Mr. Fanelli tell the governor that the "ample protection" of police was not enough to prevent the windows of Mr. Robeson's car from being smashed, or that a State Trooper himself smashed one of the windows when he asked him for protection on the highway.

Mr. Fanelli makes much of the fact that the protesting veterans left the entrance to the concert area and did not contribute to the violence there.

But he fails to say what anyone who drove from the area knows: That many of the veterans hurriedly left the area so as to take up strategic positions along the road to intercept the concert-goers as they went home.

Unanswered Questions

Other questions left unanswered in Mr. Fanelli's report are:

Why did police permit the crowd of 3,000 to mass at the entrance of the concert area, when the road leading into it is about 15 feet wide at the mouth?

Why did troopers join in the beating of such persons as Jean Bullard, as they walked into the concert area and were set upon by the crowd of 3,000?

Why did Mr. Fanelli make an appeal for the mob to leave the area around the entrance, if he did not fear violence? And if he feared violence why didn't he order the troopers to disperse them from the entrance?

Why, when the reports began to come in of violence to the buses leaving the area down the highways, were not troopers sent to line the highways instead of permitting them to continue to mass up around the entrance to the area where they were not needed once the protesting veterans had dispersed?

How does Mr. Fanelli explain the pictures of troopers beating men such as Jean Bullard, as he entered the concert area in a peaceful manner?

Why didn't Mr. Fanelli give

the bus drivers a trooper in every bus like they asked him to, when they realized what they had to face in running the gauntlet to the parkways?

Maybe the Governor will find the answer.

Wallace Hits Report

In spite of Mr. Fanelli's "white-washing" report to Governor Dewey, protests continue to pour in to State and Westchester County officials over the barbarous treatment accorded the Robeson concert-goers.

Governor Dewey, himself, refused to comment on the report on Wednesday, the day he received it. James C. Haggerty, his press secretary, said he would comment on the reports either Monday or Tuesday of this week.

In addition to Fanelli's report, Westchester County Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe and Superintendent of Schools John A. Gaffney have submitted reports that attempt to shift the blame from the shoulders of the "law enforcement" officers and veterans to those of wild teenagers.

Gaffney, instead of reproaching those who inflicted damage on peaceful citizens, in his report, charged that the meeting was held deliberately to create an incident or a breach of the peace."

After publication of the reports, Henry A. Wallace, the Progressive Party's candidate for President last year and a Westchester County resident, wrote to Governor Dewey asking that Fanelli be superseded and that a thorough investigation of the riot be made.

Report Termed "Brain"

Congressman Vito Marcantonio also called on Governor Dewey to remove District Attorney Fanelli in view of his "brazen and outrageous" report on the Peel skill riots in a telegram to him which said:

"It must startle even you, the New York newspapers, in new accounts, point out that the report differs in every major respect from the reports of scores of newspapers, news photographers, eye witnesses' accounts, a rest records, pictures and radio wire recordings taken on the scene."

Charging that the Governor himself was responsible for the riot "both by the inaction after the first Sunday attack and by your inflammatory statement before the second Robeson concert in which you called the concert a pro-Communist meeting," Marcantonio added:

"It is hoped that you have not so far forgotten your duty to the people of the State and your office that you can allow a whitewash as obviously crooked as this one to stand as part of the record of a most disgraceful and menacing attack on all the civil liberties of our State."

The Robeson Phenomenon

Suppose Paul Robeson is a disappointed and frustrated man? Who is to blame for his present condition of mind? When parents reprove their children, perhaps one of them can and does silently assume some measure of responsibility for the offspring's delinquency. Heredity and environment are the sum total of what we all are, and the Black Dispatch suggests America examine itself and its patterns of living carefully and wisely before seeking to ex-communicate Paul Robeson and turn a deaf ear to his murmurings.

When the mother reproves her offspring she does not do so in total disregard of the responsibility and accountability that is hers. She knows that either in the training she has given or in some hereditary throw-back the parents are answerable. It is written that the sins of the father shall be visited upon the children. Would not a more kindly approach to the Paul Robeson complex suggest that perhaps America has not been faithful to its obligation and duty in providing an atmosphere of freedom consonant with the constitution?

We say this because of a talk we listened to Sunday by a radio announcer who said he knew Paul Robeson, and that in his younger years he was a highly talented man loved by everyone for his stellar qualities, both mental and physical. He described the former Rutgers football player as having been an ideal person, and following use of superlatives in his description of the man, he told millions who listened to him that after receiving all America had to give in praise and honor, Paul Robeson turned his back on his friends and the legal profession for which he had been trained, because he decided he could never become the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. This radio commentator laid the present condition of Paul Robeson's mind to Robeson's ego and vanity. He suggested in his speech that Paul Robeson had natural talents that if properly used would lift him far above Booker T. Washington and Roland Hayes, who he said America worships and adores.

We thing Mrs. Roosevelt in a recent statement, since the Peekskill affair, gives a more sympathetic touch to the Robeson phenomenon. She, unlike the Sunday radio announcer, feels that Robeson was confused and frustrated immediately following his graduation from college because he discovered, despite his great legal talents, he could find no law firm, in the atmosphere where he had been sheltered for years, who would accept him on their staff. This must have been a sudden jolt to this superb young man and, if true, proves that his mind was corroded with the thought, not that he could not become the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, but because there was likelihood that being a Negro he could not practice his chosen profession at all. We suspect that radio announcer had, as Mrs. Roosevelt, heard the same story regarding Robeson's life, and he rushed upon the scene Sunday to convert it into a propaganda story of hate.

Here we discover a man who entered the field of music as an avoidance of failure. It must have been a difficult path in which Robeson has traveled across the years to become one of the greatest singers of all time, when in his heart he wanted to do a thing which America denied. Most assuredly he has made money, but we feel it is adding insult to injury when we follow the reasoning of the Sunday radio commentator, when he seems to feel that he and his ilk should dictate to

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)

this unhappy man the use he should make of his money he has made despite the handicaps of second-class citizenship. Those who seek to criticize Robeson shout "He took his son to Russia for his education." Why would not a loving father seek to get his son away from the dangers that had plagued his life? Who is to say him nay in the realm of justice and equity?

Just a little solid thinking will disclose the fallacies in the argument made by the Sunday radio announcer. If Paul Robeson had notions of grandeur and the complex of an aristocrat he would probably have followed the path of Roland Hayes who has bowed to segregated audiences across the years despite the fact of willingness to kow-tow to American race prejudice his wife was a few years ago shamefully mistreated when she sought to purchase a pair of shoes in Dixieland. It is the delight of our heart that Paul Robeson is who he is, and not a Roland Hayes who has made no contribution whatsoever to solving the race problem, when we think in terms of jim crow, segregation, disfranchisement and the mob.

Instead of seeking filthy lucre and living a life of an aristocrat, Paul Robeson has dedicated his life to fighting all forms of second-class citizenship. Only recently when few American Negroes would take the risk, he traveled through Dixie with Henry Wallace, and the slogan of that pair of civil rights gladiators was to abolish segregation. Just a little adventure in genuine reasoning will convince even a reactionary person that Paul Robeson is not attempting to be an aristocrat.

We think the last straw on the back of reaction came when Robeson's son exercised a right which was certainly his, and married a woman of his choice. We think it was then the Klan and the veterans organizations decided to march. They could not argue that the elder Robeson desired to marry out of his race, for despite the fact he has traveled all over the known globe, Paul Robeson is still happily married to an Ethiopian woman. Not Paul, but his son, committed the unpardonable sin.

America can get meat out of the Paul Robeson cocoon if it will but study with genuine sincerity the psychological effect of race prejudice upon the mentality and spirituality of black folk. It does not affect all alike. Booker T. Washington could gaze at ten thousand mulatto bastards and still make his Atlanta speech in which he said, "Socially we can be as separate as the five fingers." Paul Robeson knows there is no rhyme or reason in such stupid logic, and we have an idea the radio announcer will have as much trouble as an alligator on dry land attempting to convert Paul Robeson and millions of other black Americans to the philosophy of Booker T. Washington, as given expression in that memorable Atlanta speech. Booker T. Washington, despite the fact we consider him a great man, said many stupid things, especially when he said, "Let down your bucket where you are." No oil driller in America would be lured by any such unseemly reasoning. He rushes away from a dry hole as soon as he possibly can. Even Jackie Robinson, who the Un-American Committee sought to contradict what Robeson has been saying, got tired of letting his bucket down in the dry well of jim crow baseball and fled to an environment which race segregationists detest.

Well, we might go on and on to present other interesting angles to this discussion, but time will not permit. The point

papers, but which later was revealed in the stirring stories carried by colored weekly newspapers, is confirmed by this white leader, and New York City has evidently a devout churchman.

The fact is the writer charges that the rioting against Robeson was fomented by daily newspapers. He thus gives credence to the charge made by ever so many followers of Henry A. Wallace, that the newspapers are the agents of fascism — that they promote hatred against Negroes, Jews and other minorities.

The writer cites a first page editorial that appeared in the Peekskill Evening Star of August 25, which proclaimed that tolerant silence was over and indicated more drastic measures ought to be taken to stop Robeson and his followers from holding a concert in the Peekskill community. The writer charges that the ministers of Peekskill churches did not do their Christian duty when they failed to caution their members against acts of violence.

He charges that the parishioners of the Peekskill clergy were hurling anti-Semitic epithets. Says he: "They were shouting to one another: 'Stop that car; I wish I had a machine gun and dump that car.' The letter-writer says he was an eye witness to all that occurred and he had never dreamed that anything like it could ever happen in New York. Just about all concerning the Peekskill affair which was suppressed by the daily news-

Port For Judgment Day

New York—Benjamin D. Shaw, who gives his address as 80n East 10th Street, New York City has written a stirring letter to the "Clergy of Peekskill" and its environs" expressing his horror over the treatment accorded Paul Robeson and his followers recently. The letter, dated September 7, charges that the demonstrators were out to demonstrate, "not against Robeson or Russia, but for fascism and for Anti-Christ."

we wish to make is that Paul Robeson is an indictment of the American pattern of living. His presence here in America is evidence that our prated democracy is a sham and a pretense. Instead of attempting to let Paul Robeson in order, we should be doing some basic work on the house and the environment in which he lives. Let us remember the famous and trenchant remark of one of Shakespeare's famous characters: "The fault, dear Brutus, lies not in the stars, but in ourselves."

New Yorker Raps Peekskill Divines Over Recent Riot

Benjamin D. Shaw Charges Pastors Did Nothing To Halt Demonstration and Will Have Poor Re-

ence against Robeson because he was to hold a concert. He holds that on Judgment Day when these ministers must stand before God to give a report on the "sheep" of which they were shepherds each will have to say, "Lord they were not a flock of sheep. They were a pack of wolves." He says further:

If "God will then ask you, 'My son, did you do all you could to humanize these wolves, to Christianize them, to teach them My Way?' will your answer be, 'Lord, I was too busy red-baiting, consorting with money-changers in the Temples of Peekskill, and mouthing platitudes about the Sermon on the Mount before the Chamber of Commerce. I had no time to teach Thy Truth to Thy children?'"

In conclusion the writer says:

"So I write to you Christian pastors and ask you what shall I do? Pray God, I too will pray. Let us get down on our knees and pray. Our Father who is in heaven, blessed be thy name. Forgive them and us, O Merciful Lord, for neither they nor we know what we did. Above all, have mercy on Thy servants, who serve not Thee, but the Pharisees and money-changers of Peekskill. Amen."

The Peekskill Concert

Robeson Fracas, Is Discussed

From Negro Standpoint

Sept. 10-9-49
The writer of the following letter is International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

That Paul Robeson, despite his alleged Communist sympathies and allies, had a right to sing at the Lakeland picnic grounds near Peekskill, Westchester County, N. Y., on Aug. 28 and also in the same area on Sept. 4, all fair-minded persons will readily agree. By the same token, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars had a right to parade in protest, of the concert. That the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars sought to stop or break up the Robeson concert is quite apparent and that Robeson and his followers were ready to seize upon, capitalize and even aggravate the situation is of a piece with left-wing tactics. It seems also clear, beyond the question of a doubt, the police were woefully recreant in their duty when Robeson's concert was first attempted, Aug. 28, although, when the concert was held Sept. 4, if the police had not kept the two groups apart some persons probably would have been killed.

It is obvious from a casual study of

the Peekskill affair that the rioting and the effort to stop the concert were a travesty upon democracy and an unutterable disgrace and outrage.

But I am interested not alone in registering my protest against the delinquent, if not malevolent, behavior of the police, but in having the record straight from the point of view of dissociating this whole affair from the cause of the Negro and his fight for liberation.

Not Racial

Contrary to some impressions that have gone abroad, this affair was not racial.

It seems to be evident that the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars were not out to stop the concert for racial reasons. They demonstrated against communism and Mr. Robeson. Antipathy to Paul Robeson no doubt arose from his alleged statement in Paris last April to the effect that in a war between the United States and Soviet Russia Negroes would not fight for the United States. In this connection I think it is fair and proper to state that this statement was a personal opinion of Mr. Robeson, which he had a right to express. However, in terms of his relationship to Negroes, he had no warrant to speak as the voice of the Negro people of America.

Men must earn the right to become the responsible voice of an oppressed group. The right to speak for victims of injustice is something which can only come through long struggle, suffering and sacrifice and service for said group, whether minorities involving races, nationalities, religions or workers. It is sacred. One does not speak with an authentic voice for groups, even though sincere, out of any clear sky of sudden and dramatic activity. In very truth, Mr. Robeson is practically unknown to the Negro liberation movement as a seasoned participant. Without intending to be uncharitable to a great artist, it might be truthfully said that he is a "Johnny-come-lately" to the cause of the Negro. His has been the work of an artist on the stage and in the movies. It is a matter of common knowledge that he has been chiefly associated with left-wing movements, with little, if any, contact with the Negro masses.

Forum Provided

While making no apologies for the shortcomings and limitations of the American democratic system, no Negro in his right mind can or would attempt to whitewash American brutalities against the Negro—with these obvious shortcomings the American democratic system provides a forum

in which Negroes out of the fullness of their wrathful hearts against white supremacists may tell the world about their cause. Without this right, minorities or labor cannot hope to develop the necessary public opinion to effect a solution of their problem.

The most violent partisan of Soviet Russia cannot maintain comparable opportunities for the expression of dissenting opinions from the established Russian Communist line in the Soviet Union; not even former Bolsheviks, Trotsky, Bukharin and Zinovieff, who helped to make the Russian Revolution, possessed this right. Because of this fact, Negroes would evince profound lack of a sense of balance and enlightened self-interest were they, in a war between the United States and Soviet Russia, to turn their backs upon their own country and join hands with its foe.

Since the roots of Negro cultural, political, economic, social and educational achievements lie deep in the historical warp and woof of the United States of America, the fall of the United States means the fall of the Negro. This does not, however, mean that Negroes do not possess the right, to, or that they should not, express severe criticism and condemnation of the biased racial policies and practices of the United States Government and the country.

Without Communists

If Negroes feel the urge to march on Washington for an FEPC, let them march. It's sound strategy for the dramatization of the economic sin of job discrimination. But let them march without Communists.

If Negroes are disposed to strike for more wages, or the right to organize, so be it. But let them strike without Communists.

If Negroes, fed up with discrimination and segregation in the armed forces, decide to refuse again to join a Jim Crow army, why not? For this there is an adequate moral rationale, but only within the framework of American democracy, and the strategy of non-violent, non-resistant, goodwill, direct action, and not in alliance with, or for the benefit of, Communists of the United States or the U.S.S.R.

Nor do I hold that a Negro should not be a Communist. No, not at all. That is his right. I don't expect Negroes in America to be essentially different from white Americans. It is certainly not unnatural for some Negroes, like some Catholics, some Jews, some Protestants and some trade unionists, to be Communists. But the common horse sense of the great mass of Negroes, despite the world bid of

Communists, will reject communism

But my rejection of communism does not imply my acceptance of the immorality and brutalities of monopoly capitalism. I elect to choose the principle of the third force or middle of the road methodology of the British Labor party, as the way, without violence or bloodshed, to a new social order of security and freedom, peace and justice.

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH.

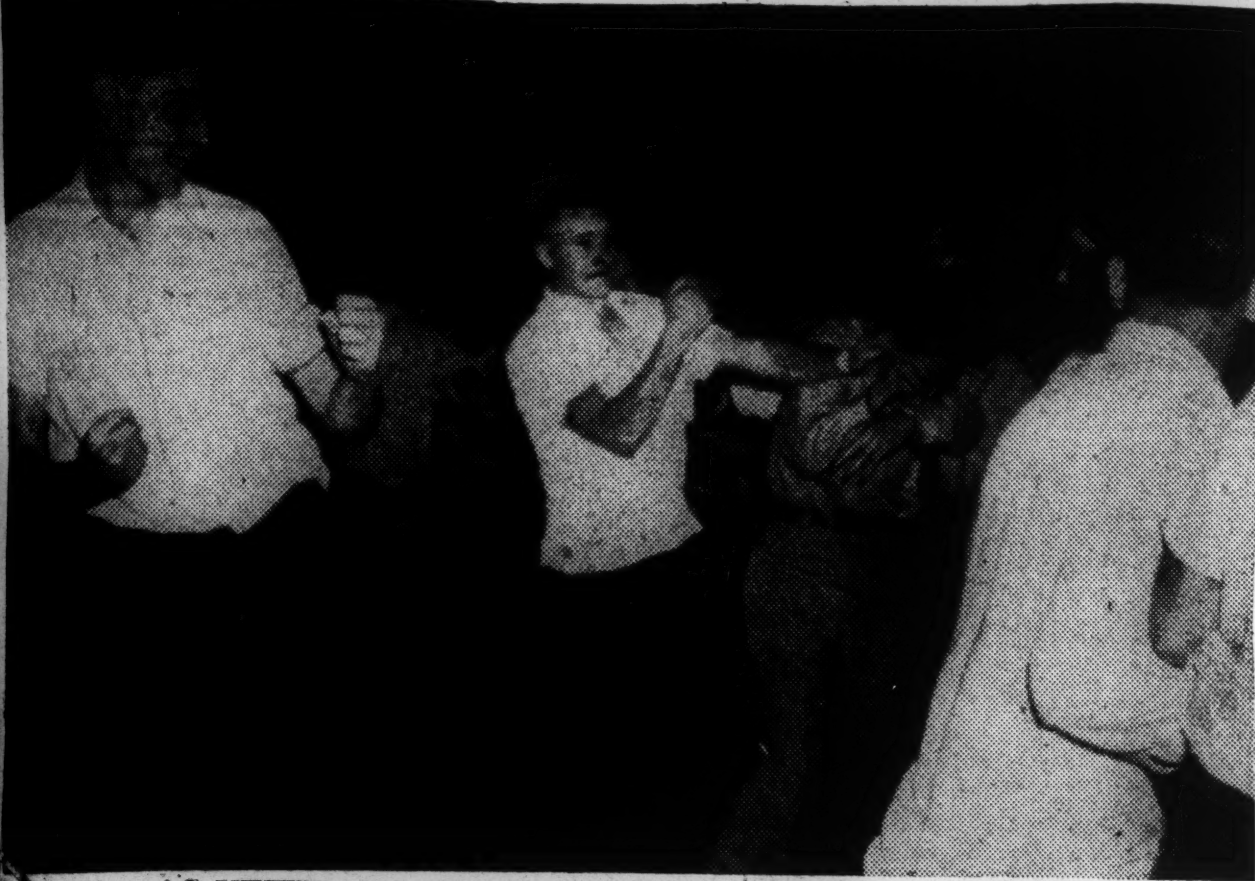
New York, Sept. 30, 1949.

THE PEEKSKILL BLUES

Goaded into belated action by outraged public opinion, the Westchester County Grand Jury returned indictments against six persons in the infamous Peekskill Riots. Among the six was the son of the chief of Peekskill's police. The indictments were returned in fact of the complete whitewash of the affair by both state police and Westchester County officials, including District Attorney George M. Fanelli, all of whom tried to put the blame on "teen age elements." This theory has been thoroughly discounted, if not disproved, by photos made on the spot which showed police actively aiding and abetting the mob in its unreasoning attack on citizens leaving a Paul Robeson concert appearance.

We do not support in any manner the so-called Communist line. Neither do we uphold any individual or group who would deny the right to free speech to anyone except by lawful means. Whatever the purpose of the Robeson concert at Peekskill, the fact remains that permits had been granted for the affair or at least the police knew everything there was to be known in advance of everything. The permission granted the "veterans" to stage a counter parade smack in the thick of things in which the concert crowd would actually be in contact with an opposing element looks like a deliberate attempt by somebody to bring on what took place. Sure, the veterans had every right to a counter parade. No precedent was being set by the situation. That sort of thing occurs almost everywhere in labor picketing and protests. But here things were different. People had been steamed up to white hot hatred by propaganda and agitation on both sides and when they were finally let loose at one another, somebody was bound to get hurt. And hundreds were.

The Grand Jury which indicted the six was the so-called Summer Grand Jury. Its work will be taken up by the regular October Grand Jury which begins its sessions early in October and will continue the special investigation ordered by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. We suspect the whole incident will be political fodder of the first magnitude in that the fall campaign of all parties will use the subject, pro or con, to further their own programs. The supporters of Paul Robeson have won two rounds of their program. First, they used the incident to project Robeson further into the world spotlight as something of a martyred version of the persecuted Negro.



AS VETERANS BROKE UP PAUL ROBESON CONCERT

Robeson Charges 'Terror Campaign'

NEW YORK—(UP)—Paul Robeson charged yesterday that the riot which cancelled his Peekskill concert Saturday night was part of a nation-wide "campaign of terror" against progressive forces.

"I will be no part of loyalty to this kind of America," the Left-Wing Negro baritone told a press conference. He added that this did not mean he would be disloyal to America, but "only to that one percent. I am loyal to the great majority who want freedom and justice for the Negro people."

The riot at Peekskill erupted after 300 to 400 young veterans had staged an anti-Communist demonstration at a picnic grounds where 150 persons, most of them Negroes, had gathered to hear Robeson sing.

Before the riot was quelled two and one-half hours later by State Troopers, one veteran had been stabbed in the chest and was in serious condition. Seven Negroes had been slightly injured in fist fights, and by pitched stones and bottles, and a cross had been burned on the picnic grounds. Eight cars had been overturned. Five cars had been made useless when the rampaging veterans poured sand into the gas tanks.

While Robeson held his press conference in New York, some

1,500 people gathered in a protest demonstration on a Westchester County estate close to the scene of Saturday night's violence.

Robeson charged that "every apparatus of the Government—executive, judicial and legislative—is being used to oppress the people. This campaign is taking the form especially of an all-out attack on the Negro people."

Upon questioning he said that he meant Jews and other minority groups as well as Negroes.

"Behind these few Legionnaires are some powerful forces," he declared. "We are dealing here with a very powerful section of one percent of American life that owns 60 percent of American wealth."

At the American Labor Party rally on the estate of Dr. Samuel Rosen, in Somers Township near Peekskill, speakers denounced the riot as "Fascist, anti-Semitic, anti-Negro and anti-America."

Rep. Vito Marcantonio, American Labor Party, New York, who planned to speak at another protest rally next Friday, called on Gov. Dewey to oust several Westchester County officials because of

The ALP said it would ask Dewey to investigate police en-

forcement in Westchester County, to determine if the Ku Klux Klan was behind the burning of the cross at the picnic grounds, and to remove county officials responsible for failing to provide police protection for Robeson's concert after they had promised to do so.

Washington Notebook . . .

By LEM GRAVES JR.

(Courier's Washington Correspondent)

Robeson, the Heroic Martyr

WASHINGTON—Interviewing Paul Robeson, as this reporter did last week-end, is a full-scale operation. It was not always thus and the difference is astounding. One of the sources of Paul's popularity has always been the ready access which ordinary Joes had to him. This is all changed now. Robeson is the heroic martyr, surrounded by a zealous palace guard, with his movements and his whereabouts clothed in impenetrable secrecy.



Mr. Graves

The interview, when finally granted, was monitored by the inner circle of party dialecticians who had all the facile answers, straight out of the book, in case Paul needed any help. Robeson, who knows the handbook very well himself, didn't need much help.

For this reporter, who here in Washington finds it necessary from time to time to talk to Senators, cabinet members, labor bosses, Congressmen, Klan moguls, capitalists, and even Presidents was amazed to discover that Robeson could be so completely isolated from legitimate questioning by a veteran reporter for a responsible newspaper. Thanks to able assists by two newspaper colleagues, Ollie Harrington and Billy Rowe (both Courier men), the gauntlet of inner circle aides was finally run. The results, in terms of objective questions and Mr. Robeson's answers, are reproduced elsewhere in this newspaper.

While Robeson's answers to a question were complicated by much of the standard party doctrine, which is so easily recognized, one cannot escape the feeling that this man is deeply sincere in his desire to do something about the degrading humiliations and indignities suffered by Negroes in this country. It is not necessary to approve his methods or to agree with his political views to appreciate his sincerity.

Whether Robeson is or is not a Communist (and there can be little doubt that he is in the the minds of those who listen to him), the racial injustices which he so vigorously protests are real, not fancied. Communists could not have made Robeson the martyr he is today, no matter how skillfully they tried. It took stupid veterans, fascist-minded legionnaires, knuckle-headed intolerants, teen-age hoodlums, and vicious state troopers to turn this trick. It took American defaults on the democracy it is

offering in the world market-place of ideas to set the stage for Peekskill. If you assume that Robeson wanted such a stage and such a situation to dramatize Marxist propaganda, you have to admit that he was not able to create it. It was handed to him on a silver platter.

In the Peekskill affair, it has been established by competent observers who are in no way sympathetic with communism that Robeson and his supporters were the victims and not the instigators of the terror and bloodshed and that the New York State cops were the principal offenders. As long as America is foolish enough to play

the role of the storm troopers, instead, the results will be American democracy is on the defensive. It could resort to genuine democracy. If it elects to resort to uni-

Catastrophic.

* * *

Here in Washington, Secretary of Army Gordon Gray and his chiefs of staff still hedge on democratic integration in the U. S. Army. Secretary Gray last week told The Courier that the Army will, "in the near future," produce its third formula for equality of opportunity. He says it will be better than the first two and better than present policy. The main problem is the quota. Army doesn't want to relinquish its quota restrictions. In view of the clever manner in which Communists have identified themselves with racial restrictions in America, it would seem that the U. S. Government would accelerate rather than delay its movement toward genuine democracy, particularly in the forces it will have to use to fight the next war—since it is generally agreed that another war would involve this country against Communist Russia.

* * *

This reporter wonders why, in all the speculation about a successor to Walter White, the name of the man who has been his understudy for years, Roy Wilkins, is seldom mentioned. Roy, an ex-newspaperman and good guy, is overlooked consistently although he is now in White's position. There must be a reason for this conscious oversight. Incidentally, White is through as NAACP head, and as spiritual leader of the U. S. Negro community. His resignation will be hastily accepted when he returns to this country.

* * *

Overheard at 135th and Lenox Avenue: "You keep telling me about Paul Robeson. What has Paul done for me? Has he got a factory? I need a job!"



Joe's WRITE HAND

The Paul Robeson incident was a disgrace to the State of New York. The entire riot could have been averted by rigid police work. I was not there and I had no intentions of going there since my political views are not those of the world famous baritone Paul Robeson. I will, however, fight for and die if necessary, to uphold the Constitution of the United States. The Bunds and the Ku Klux hold meetings and although they don't like our constitution, they were not stoned, cut, or driven like wild animals being led to the slaughter as were the people who went to the little town outside of Peekskill.

I have talked to several newspapermen who covered the scene and they told me of the brutality that went on there, and I listened in silence. They showed me evidence of the mob-like violence and my head hung in shame because this is my country.

The time is here for the lawmakers to take an upperhand and exert their authority when it is necessary and vital, but such may not have been the case Sunday.

I don't condone Communism, and neither do I condone the burning of homes in the South or the beating and lynching of the people there. Neither do I put my stamp of approval on mob violence. What happened Sept. 4 must never happen again. The incident has left an indelible imprint on the minds of those who attended. Some were maimed and they will never forget. Governor Thomas E. Dewey must not forget.

I have been absent from New York City only a few weeks but each time I visit the big town, I am amazed. The people in it are so different from the people elsewhere. After a visit to this great metropolis everywhere else seems like a small town in comparison—they are all trying to imitate the big burg.

The folks in this town are different believe me—they get out of bed all hours of the day and they call it morning . . . They play the numbers and horses religiously, and it's the biggest industry here . . . Some work and some just don't and won't . . . You will find fellows standing on the corner from the time you hit the city until the time you leave, acting as if they are protecting something . . . People here will invite you to dinner and wind up offering you liquor . . . They will feed the pigeons, dogs, rats, cockroaches, cats and gold fishes but they will get mad if you ask them for something to eat . . . They hate to spend a nickel more for food but will spend all kinds of money for clothes . . . They holler when they haven't the dough but they will go to the night-

clubs and spend as if the stuff grew on trees and brag about it the next day . . . The girls here are also different from the girls elsewhere. They are always pretending they can't eat there or sit anywhere but in the lodges or at the ringside in night-clubs or theaters. They can't ride in the subs or buses but only cabs because they will get sick. Here you will find the only ladies in the world who can sip a cocktail for hours without emptying the glass . . . Here the rich and the poor mingle together making it the most democratic city in the world. That's New York City.

Paul Robeson Undaunted By Acts Of N. Y. Rioters

Singer Makes Hot Retort to VFW Commander Who Wants Him To Get One-way Ticket to Russia; Paul Says He Will Keep Fighting

NEW YORK—Paul Robeson, world-famous singer and anti-war propagandist, made another one of his colorful comments on a tractor here Sunday, following the Saturday night, August 27, mob demonstration which broke up the singer's scheduled concert at Peekskill. It was in reply to Clyde Lewis, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who is reported to have said that the VFW would be glad to buy Robeson a one-way ticket to Russia. Said Paul Robeson:

"I feel I have more right than Lewis to stay in this country. One of my ancestors on my mother's side baked bread for George Washington's soldiers in the Revolutionary War and my father's people were slaves upon whose backs the wealth of this country was built. I am going to stay right here and fight for my people and the rights of all Americans."

Commander Lewis was quoted as saying that he believed in "peaceful demonstrations" but did not countenance the "spontaneous" one which resulted in the injuries of a number of persons, and the overturning and destruction of the automobiles of several of the citizens who came to attend the Robeson concert.

Robeson made a startling charge with regard to who were the leaders of the mob demonstration. He charged that there are a number

of the members of the Klan in New York State and asked Gov. Dewey to make public the list of the Klansmen. Such a list, he stated, had been in the State Government's hands for some time. Robeson is quoted also as saying, with regard to the boys who were participants in the demonstration against his concert:

"This was no mere local incident. Those boys were told to do it. Somebody ought to investigate who told them to do it, the Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and whoever else organized the riot?"

Robeson contended that the riot "called for investigation of the American Legion by the Department of Justice."

Friends of Paul Robeson, in reporting the Saturday night riot stated that scores of people were injured, and fifteen automobiles were overturned by groups of men, some of whom wore American Legion caps. Local officials who are reported to have been derelict in providing proper police protection to persons who went to the concert were seeking to minimize the trouble, stating that "only nine" persons were injured severely enough to be sent to the hospital.

But despite the attempt to minimize the public view generally criticized the "patriotic" Veterans groups" which took things into their own hands and staged a demonstration to prevent Robeson from singing. As usual, the press was on the job giving aid and comfort to the enemies of Robeson. Constant references were made to his being a left-winger and an associate of left-wingers, including former Vice President Henry A. Wallace who ran for president in the Progressive ticket in 1948. The epithet, "Communist" was being hurled at Robeson and his follow-

ers, while Robeson's friends charge the "patriotic societies" with being Fascists. One charge is as void as the other, and many persons see in the riot the definite drift in the United States toward a divided country in which all anti-war people may be in the Communist camp and the pro-war element in the Fascist camp.

The pattern of the "coming revolution" and the end of representative government in the United States may have been witnessed by those who saw the lawlessness precipitated by the Paul Robeson concert at the Lakeland Acres picnic grounds near Peekskill, N. Y. on Saturday night, August 27, 1949.

The offer of reward was filed with Westchester County Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe, who was asked to make the notice public. Information received will be turned over to the proper law enforcement authorities. Ruscoe was informed.

Indignation, Shame

Expressed by Mob Group

NEW YORK—Expressing "indignation and shame over the recurrence of mob violence in Peekskill," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for the arrest and prosecution of the mob leaders, the suspension from duty of the officer in command of the state police, and a "sweeping investigation by state officials into the conduct of District Attorney George M. Faneli and Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe."

In a telegram to Governor Dewey, ACLU OFFERS REWARDS

NEW YORK — The American Civil Liberties Union Saturday published notice of a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons or police officials who incited to or participated in the mob violence which marked two concert appearances of singer Paul Robeson near Peekskill, N. Y. August 27 and September 4.

"A variety of reports plus photographs in the daily press," Mr. Wilkins charged, "all indicate that many police assigned to duty either joined the demonstrators or did nothing to check stonings, beatings and destruction of property" during three hours of mob violence which resulted in reported injuries to 145

At the same time, the Union informed Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, that it was in the process of forming with other agencies, a committee of citizens of Westchester County and New York "who will either

THAT FLORIDA'S SHAME IS FULLY SHARED BY the proud state of New York becomes ever clearer as eyewitness accounts pour in describing the Witches' Sabbath at Peekskill. Sheriff Fanelli's report to Governor Dewey, eulogizing the police and bravely blaming teenage children for the terror, is flatly disproved not only by these accounts but by its own internal contradictions. The Governor's continued silence is in shocking contrast to the speed with which he denounced violence in the Bell Aircraft strike at Buffalo: "a serious outbreak of lawlessness . . . an organized group became a mob, obstructed the free use of the highway and of passage for those trying to use it lawfully." He can still redeem himself by a drastic investigation of state and local police at Peekskill, who not only permitted more flagrant lawlessness than Buffalo's but almost certainly condoned it. Strong disciplinary action now would discourage such dereliction in the future, though at best it would only keep the lid on a blind hatred and a total ignorance of the very essence of democracy. Perhaps there is not much that Governor Dewey can do about that, but given a really deep conviction and the imagination to rise above administrative routine, he could do something. He could come to Peekskill himself, mount the platform from which Paul Robeson sang, and tell the people of that hysterical community, calmly and reasonably, the simple truths about Americanism, which their veterans presumably fought for though they do not appear to know it. What an act of statesmanship that would be—and how improbable!

SIX ARE INDICTED IN PEEKSKILL ROW

New York Times
District Attorney Decides to
Let Regular Grand Jury Inquire

Into Recent Violence
Wed. 9-21-49

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Sept. 20—Completing a study of the grand jury law as it applies to Westchester, District Attorney George M. Fanelli decided today to ask the regular October grand jury instead of a special grand jury to investigate the recent violence near Peekskill between followers of Paul Robeson and anti-Communist groups of the area. The regular summer grand jury met this morning and indicted six persons—one the son of the Peekskill police chief—who had been accused of throwing stones, over-

turning a car or carrying a concealed weapon in the Sept. 4 demonstration against communism. These are the last defendants facing charges that arose on the day of the demonstration, five others having pleaded guilty and been sentenced in lower courts.

Mr. Fanelli, who has been instructed by Governor Dewey to conduct a "complete, unlimited and exhaustive" grand jury investigation of all aspects of the left-wingers' meeting and the violence they drew, had planned until today to obtain a special grand jury for the job because of the probable length of the investigation and its conflict with routine grand jury work.

"Grave Doubt" of Legality

The prosecutor found, however, that "grave doubt" existed concerning the legality of a special grand jury here in an investigation that was not set up as "extraordinary." Consequently, he arranged to continue the present month for regular work and have the October grand jury, which is

New York (Paul Robeson Concert) scheduled to be sworn in Oct. 3 by American Legion commander, Supreme Court Justice James W. Bailey, devote itself exclusively to the Peekskill inquiry for an unspecified number of weeks.

Members of all the Westchester grand juries are drawn from lists of nominations submitted by assessors, supervisors and town councilmen. Forty members of the October grand jury panel of talesmen, twenty-three of whom will be chosen to serve, were drawn from such lists on Sept. 16 and notified to report in court on Oct. 3.

In today's indictments, Joseph Lillis Jr., 25 years old, son of the Peekskill Police Chief, was accused of malicious mischief for throwing stones at Robeson followers near the former Hollow Brook Country Club in the town of Cortlandt.

Robert Lent, 29, of Shrub Oak, a war veteran, was indicted on a Sullivan Law charge for the alleged carrying of a long hunting knife strapped to his leg, also near Hollow Brook.

Indictments charging malicious mischief there for the overturning of an automobile of a Robesonite were voted against David F. Miller, 16, and William B. Williams, 20, both of Peekskill, and Samuel J. Biordi, 17, and Vincent F. Doherty, 18, both of Croton-on-Hudson.

"March on Capitol" Today

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALBANY, Sept. 20—Governor Dewey's office said today that a member of the Governor's legal staff would meet with a delegation of the groups who plan to "march on the capitol" tomorrow in protest against the handling of the investigation of disorders that followed the Paul Robeson concert near Peekskill Sept. 4.

Lawrence E. Walsh, assistant counsel to the Governor, conferred several weeks ago with a group that came to Albany to ask the Governor to remove a number of Westchester officials for their alleged failure to keep order.

The Albany "march" tomorrow is being arranged by the Protest Peekskill Coordinating Committee. Robert Schutzer, secretary of the American Labor party, said more than 1,000 persons would march.

Police Protection Asked

A special train will bring a large delegation from New York City. Mayor Erastus Corning of Albany, and Police Chief Philip J. Coffey received telegrams today from Fitz Squires, secretary of the Peekskill committee, asking police protection for the marchers.

Mayor Corning said the right of the organization "peaceably to assemble will be scrupulously protected." He warned, however, that the city would not tolerate any violence.

Robert S. Coburn, Albany Coun-

VETERANS TO SPURN RALLY AT PEEKSKILL

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Sept. 22—Posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars of Cold Spring, N. Y., have notified officials of the associated veterans group that sponsored the protest picket-parades against Paul Robeson that they have withdrawn from participation in the rally tentatively scheduled for Nov. 11.

James W. Ricevuto of the VFW, said that his post could not "support a town that in view of their petty politics and prejudices forget their national patriotism and show an unwillingness to continue to fight the battle against communism which they themselves started."

George Benziger, legion commander, announced that his group was withdrawing "due to the refusal of the joint veterans council of Peekskill to sponsor such a project. The George A. Casey Post was invited to participate in the original demonstration Sept. 4 and did so. We supported the organization of Peekskill at that time. In the face of the present feeling we can do nothing but withdraw."

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Sept. 22—Joseph Lillis Jr., son of the Peekskill police chief, pleaded not guilty in county court here today to a charge of malicious mischief for the alleged throwing of rocks on Sept. 4 at an automobile of left-wing followers of Paul Robeson near Peekskill. Judge Elbert T. Gallagher released young Lillis in \$500 bail, which was posted by the defendant's parents.

A renewed request to Governor Dewey to appoint a Moreland Act commissioner to investigate the clashes near Peekskill was made public yesterday by six organizations—the American Civil Liberties Union, the New York State Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action, the American Jewish Congress, the American Veterans Committee, the Council Against Intolerance, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Police Chief's Son, 2 Others Indicted in Peekskill Riot

White Plains, N. Y., Sept. 20 (U.P.)

The son of the Peekskill, N. Y., police chief and two other young men were indicted by the Westchester County grand jury today in connection with the riot at singer Paul Robeson's September 4 concert near Peekskill.

Joseph Lillis Jr., 25, son of the police chief, was indicted for malicious mischief. He was accused of stoning an automobile.

William Williams, 20, of Peekskill, was indicted for felonious mischief. He and three others, whose names were not revealed because they were under 19, were arrested for overturning an automobile.

Robert Lent, of Shrub Oak, was indicted under the Sullivan Law. He was charged with carrying a large knife.

Meanwhile, Westchester County District Attorney George M. Fanelli announced that the October session of the grand jury would begin a "complete, exhaustive study" of the rioting. Fanelli said he personally would present evidence to the grand jury, which is scheduled to begin its session October 3. Fanelli said police, Robeson adherents, anti-Robesonites and non-partisan witnesses would be called.

President Hits Violence At Peekskill

Indorses Column

Of Mrs. Roosevelt

On New York Affair

WASHINGTON, D. C. (NNPA)—President Truman last Thursday indorses the syndicated column of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in which she condemned mob violence following the concert of Paul Robeson at Peekskill, New York.

At Mr. Truman's press conference last Thursday, a reporter prefaced his question with the statement that Mrs. Roosevelt in her column last Wednesday had referred to the rioting at Peekskill as "disgraceful and mob lawlessness." "Have you any comment?" he asked the President.

Peekskill, N. Y., and the amount of real harm that was done despite all the state police and local officers. I think I must reiterate that it seems to me quite disgraceful to allow this kind of lawlessness. "One hundred and forty-five people were injured. Fifty buses were stoned, and a number of private cars, many of which did not contain people who had been at the concert, were molested and damaged."

THE COLUMN

In her column of last Wednesday, Mrs. Roosevelt said:

"Now that I have had time to read the results of all the efforts that were made to keep the peace at the concert given Sunday near

at the concert given Sunday near

FREE TO ACT

"Lack of followers and ridicule

will do far more than violence to remove whatever menace Mr. Robeson may be. I was particularly sorry to hear one of the buses and a number of cars which were manhandled by a particular group that was not controlled by the police authorities were cars that were returning from the Hyde Park Memorial Library and held no people who had been to the Robeson concert."

Robeson Incited Peekskill Riot Cox Charges

WASHINGTON (UP) — Rep. Eugene E. Cox, Democrat, Georgia, accused Negro singer Paul Robinson yesterday of inciting the recent Peekskill, N. Y., riot to further the aims of Communism.

He made the charge on the House floor after an argument over whether Rep. John E. Rankin, Democrat, Mississippi, called Robinson a "Nigger."

Rankin said the riot was caused by "This----- Communist, Paul Robeson."

Rep. Vito Marcantonio, American-Labor Party, New York, promptly demanded that the word be stricken from the record "because it is the word 'nigger' and it reflects on two members of this House who are Negroes."

Speaker Sam Rayburn finally ruled that Rankin had said "Negro."

The riot, which occurred at Robeson's scheduled Sept. 4 concert near Peekskill, was brought up by Rep. Jacob K. Javits, Republican, New York, who said it showed the need for anti-lynching legislation or other means of "protecting minorities, especially hated minorities."

Cox said Robeson was the "agent provocateur who incited the riot." He said the singer used "a technique with which he is fully familiar, having acquired it at first hand in the school of Communist Russia itself."

Gov. Dewey Lays Robeson Incidents To Communists

NEW YORK (NNPA)—Protests against the statement of Governor Thomas E. Dewey on the recent rioting and violence, in which he said the Paul Robeson guard force assembled at the concert September 4 incited the disorders, were made last Thursday by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith and Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Congress.

The Anti-Defamation League said it approves Governor Dewey's decision to order a grand jury investigation, but believes the Governor has weakened public confidence in that investigation ... by the nature of his comments in announcing it and by his failure to supersede the Westchester County District Attorney.

APPROVES CALLING

The Civil Liberties Union approved the calling of a grand jury investigation but sharply condemned its direction by District Attorney George M. Fannelli of Westchester county.

The Union also said that the Governor had weakened his statement by failing to mention the alleged total lack of police protection at a previous concert scheduled by Paul Robeson near Peekskill on August 27.

Rabbi Miller called the Governor's action, "wholly inadequate and farcical because Mr. Fanelli was in command of police forces at the scene of the disorders and therefore should have been superceded in an investigation of the events."

ROY WILKINS

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said:

"Governor Dewey has issued a strange statement on Peekskill. He has ordered a grand jury investigation to determine the facts, but at the same time he has expressed the opinion that the followers of Paul Robeson provoked violence. By issuing this statement he has prejudged the case and made the projected grand jury investigation a meaningless formality."

Calling the disorders "a shame and disgrace, Governor Dewey said the protesting groups had fallen into a Communist "bear trap."

The governor issued his statement after a four-hour conference with District Attorney George M. Fannelli of Westchester county, County Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe and Captain John A. Gaffney, superintendent of state police, all three of whom had previously made reports to him.

In the riot on August 27, groups identified as war veterans began a demonstration against members of the audience. A platform and seats were burned, automobiles were stoned and overturned and nine persons were injured. Mr. Robeson did not sing.

Although about 900 police were mobilized in the area of the concert on September 4, 145 persons were injured as automobiles and buses transporting 15,000 persons from the concert were ambushed.

After reviewing the incidents in connection with the two appearances of Mr. Robeson in Westchester county, Governor Dewey placed the responsibility for the incidents upon the Communists groups.

"Indignation, Shame" Expressed By Group

NEW YORK — Expressing "indignation and shame over the recurrence of mob violence in Peekskill," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called for the arrest and prosecution of the mob leaders, the suspension from duty of the officer in command of the state police, and a "sweeping investigation by state officials into the conduct of District Attorney George M. Fannelli and Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe."

In a telegram to Governor Dewey, on Sept. 6, Roy Wilkins, acting N. A. A. C. P. secretary, called attention to "clearly discernible anti-Negro sentiment" among members of the mob which attacked citizens following the Paul Robeson concert near Peekskill on September 4.

"A variety of reports plus photographs in the daily press," Mr. Wilkins charged, "all indicate that many police assigned to duty either joined the demonstrators or did nothing to check stonings, beatings and destruction of property" during three hours of mob violence which resulted in reported injuries to 145 persons.

ACLU OFFERS REWARDS
NEW YORK — The American Civil Liberties Union Saturday published notice of a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons or police officials who incited to or participated in the mob violence which marked two concert appearances of singer Paul Robeson near Peekskill, N. Y. August 27 and September 4.

At the same time, the Union informed Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, that it was in the process of forming with other agencies, a committee of citizens of Westchester County and New York "who will, either on their own initiative or in co-operation with any committee of inquiry you may appoint, render such service as may be possible in placing responsibility for the outbreak, with a view to preventing any such future deplorable conflicts."

The offer of reward was filed with Westchester County Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe, who was asked to make the notice public. Information received will be turned over to the proper law enforcement authorities, Ruscoe was informed.

Mrs. FDR Acts Like the President

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt last week condemned the Peekskill riot. She said: "It is not the thing we believe in. If he (Robeson) wants to give a concert or speak his mind in public, no one should prevent him from doing so. No one who disagrees is obliged to stay or even to go hear him. 'It is disgraceful to allow this kind of lawlessness.'"

President Truman at his press conference last week, when asked to comment on the Peekskill mess, said he endorsed Mrs. Roosevelt's views. Why didn't the President speak first? After all he is the elected spokesman for all the people. Here we have Mrs. Roosevelt acting like a President of the U.S. and President Truman acting like an ordinary citizen.

GOVERNOR ORDERS GRAND JURY STUDY OF ROBESON RIOTING

New York Times

**Calls the Peekskill Disorders
'Shame, Disgrace' Provoked
by Communist 'Guard'**

Thurs. 9-10-49

PRAISES WORK OF POLICE

**Fanelli Will Conduct Inquiry,
Look Into Possible Plot to
Stir Race, Religious Hatred**

By LEO EGAN

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Sept. 14—Governor Dewey ordered tonight a "complete unlimited and exhaustive" grand jury inquiry into outbreaks of violence near Peekskill on two recent Sundays when Paul Robeson, baritone and left-wing political storm center, appeared there for concerts. He was prevented from singing the first time.

In announcing his decision, after a four and a half hour conference with District Attorney George M. Fanelli and Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe of Westchester, the Governor expressed the opinion that the disorders were provoked deliberately by Communist sympathizers of Mr. Robeson.

But he characterized the disorders as "a shame and a disgrace," adding that in his view those who participated in the anti-Communist demonstrations incident to the concerts had fallen into a Communist "bear trap" and had unwittingly furnished grist for party propaganda all over the United States, Europe, South America and Africa.

Praises Police Work

As to the police arrangements for the second concert, which has been the subject of substantial criticism, Mr. Dewey said:

"From an examination of all the facts it is clear that the amalgamated police forces numbering 900 used every reasonable method to preserve peace and order at the meeting and to preserve the right of free speech and assembly. They were successful at this despite the very great difficulty and despite the fact that eleven of their members were injured."

Presentation of evidence to the grand jury will be in charge of District Attorney Fanelli. Mr. Dewey said he had the prosecutor's assurance that he would proceed "promptly, vigorously and impartially."

These assurances were repeated by Mr. Fanelli to reporters after the Governor had made his announcement.

Asked if he had given consideration to supplanting Mr. Fanelli in the investigation because of his participation in arrangements for policing the second Robeson concert, Mr. Dewey said that he knew that the district attorney was present on the occasion and noted that most of the violence had occurred at some distance from the scene of the actual concert.

Points to Be Covered

In his announcement, Mr. Dewey said that the grand jury investigation would cover the following:

"All of the disorders which broke out after the meeting of Sept. 4, and whether these disorders were the result of organized planning on the part of any individual or group.

"Whether the meeting was initiated and sponsored for the purpose of deliberately inciting disorder and a breach of the peace, and whether it was part of the Communist strategy to foment racial and religious hatred.

"Whether the Communist-led guard forces are a quasi-military force. Storm troopers or private militia, whether in white sheets, brown shirts or military clothing, will not be tolerated in New York. We have abolished the Bund and the Ku Klux Klan and we will not permit similar Communist organizations to exist."

The Governor added:

"I am deeply convinced that the people of our state will insist that every right of every group be scrupulously preserved. Free

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)

The drafting of a "Peekskill Plan" for communities to follow in handling Communist meetings and propaganda was under consideration here today by city officials and business leaders. A meeting for discussion of the proposal is scheduled for tomorrow at the Chamber of Commerce offices.

After the trouble arising from demonstrations against recent gatherings of left-wing followers of Paul Robeson, Peekskill feels especially competent to suggest how a city in the 18,000 population class should act—or not act—in such emergencies.

Harmonious thinking on the question has not yet been achieved by civic leaders, however. Tomorrow the Peekskill Council of Christian Clergymen plans to issue a statement that will deal in part with local disputes still developing from the rioting of Sept. 4.

A patriotic parade and rally planned by Peekskill as a demonstration against communism has been postponed from Sept. 25 to Oct. 2, leaders said.

4 at Yale Ask U. S. Inquiry

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Sept. 14—A Federal investigation into the recent disorders near Peekskill, N. Y., was asked in a joint letter sent yesterday to United States Attorney General J. Howard McGrath by four members of the Yale Law School faculty and a local lawyer.

Thomas I. Emerson, one of the faculty members and a former state chairman of the Peoples (Wallace) party in Connecticut, announced today that he and Fleming James Jr., David Haber and Fowler Harper of the school and Catherine G. Roraback of 42 Church Street, this city, had written to Mr. McGrath requesting an investigation by the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice, the impanelling of a special grand jury and the speedy prosecution of all violations of Federal law in the incidents.

Jewish Group to Give Data

A delegation from the American Jewish Labor Council will confer in Washington tomorrow with Alexander Campbell, chief of the Department of Justice criminal division, to press its request for a Federal investigation of the violence near Peekskill at two scheduled concerts by Paul Robeson, it was announced yesterday at the council offices, 22 East Seventeenth Street.

It was announced that representatives of seven American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations unions in this city would take to Mr. Campbell stones, clubs, broken automobile windshields and other evidence of the attacks upon concertgoers.

Depositions by eyewitnesses, affidavits from persons injured in the rioting, and photographs will be offered in support of the council's request that the Department of Justice supersede local and state investigations and "bring to justice hoodlums, those who instigated them, and state officials guilty of damaging property, attacking peaceful citizens and otherwise violating civil liberties."

Norman Thomas, chairman of the Post War World Council, sent to Governor Dewey a request to institute a formal inquiry involving public hearings to fix responsibility for the disorders. In a statement, in which he said he had been instructed by unanimous vote of the council's executive committee to make the request of Governor Dewey, Mr. Thomas declared:

"The council is concerned primarily with foreign policy. But it cannot disregard domestic occurrences which impair our own regard for the liberties we urge upon the world and tremendously weaken us in the ideological war against totalitarianism."

MY DAY

**Robeson is getting few
followers and is doing
harm to his own people**

By Eleanor Roosevelt

NEW YORK.—Now that I have had time to read the results of all the efforts that were made to keep the peace at the concert given Sunday near Peekskill, N. Y., and the amount of real harm that was done in spite of all the State police and local officers, I think I must reiterate that it seems to me quite disgraceful to allow this kind of lawlessness. One hundred people were injured. Fifty busses were stoned, and a number of private cars, many of which did not contain people who had been at this concert, were molested and damaged.

This is not the type of thing that we believe in in the United States. If peaceful picketing leads to this, all the pickets do

is to give the Communists good material for propaganda. I DISLIKE everything that Paul Robeson is now saying. I am opposed to him politically and I think he is doing great harm to his own people. He is persuading very few people to go along with him, but he is creating extremely bad feeling. I still believe, however, that if we remove whatever menace Mr. Robeson may be, I was particularly concerned about the conference on educational problems of special cultural tractors many visitors.

TUESDAY NIGHT I addressed the conference on educational problems of special cultural tractors many visitors.

All day Thursday I will attend the meetings in Atlanta of the Southern Regional Council, Inc., speaking that night on the Declaration of Human Rights. I hope to start to drive home Thursday night or very early Friday morning, reaching Hyde Park again Saturday afternoon unless something should occur to change my plans.

I have found that carefully laid plans are frequently subject to circumstances beyond our control and I have long since given up being rigid about anything.

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PEEKSKILL INQUIRY OPENS NEXT MONTH

New York, N.Y.
Fanelli to Ask Special Grand Jury Next Week to Hold Long Investigation

James
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Sept. 15—The proposed Westchester

County grand jury investigation of violence at recent meetings near Peekskill of left-wing followers of Paul Robeson will begin in early October and continue for many weeks, officials indicated this evening.

The inquiry was ordered yesterday by Governor Dewey after a conference with District Attorney George M. Fanelli of Westchester and other officials who had observed the disturbances, which arose from conflict between Robeson followers and anti-Communist groups.

Sept. 9-16-49
After staff conferences this afternoon, Mr. Fanelli said he would appear in court early next week to ask for an order impaneling a special grand jury to devote itself exclusively to studying every phase of the violence and events preceding it.

When the jurors are chosen, Mr. Fanelli added, they should receive seven or eight days' grace to arrange personal and business affairs before beginning jury work.

The prosecutor said a "great number" of witnesses would be called, with the jury analyzing the actions of left wingers who arranged and fought to protect Robeson "concerts," the violence that flared when local groups conducted demonstrations of protest, and the protective steps taken by the state police, the Sheriff's office and an emergency force of special officers.

Mr. Fanelli declared that if some witnesses were found to be in other states they could and would be forced to come here to testify—provided they were in a state that has subscribed to an agreement

establishing what amounts to extradition.

The district attorney declined to identify proposed witnesses when reporters suggested lists that included Mr. Robeson, Howard Fast, writer and a key figure in the Robeson "concerts," Irving Potash of the International Fur and Leather Workers Union, CIO, who is one of the eleven Communist leaders on trial in Federal Court in New York; Dr. Fred Gottlieb, chairman of the Westchester Citizens Committee for Law and Order; Vincent Boyle, chairman of the Peekskill veterans' group that protested against the "concerts," and Mr. Boyle's associates.

At Peekskill, thirteen members of the Council of Christian Clergymen objected to a large parade and demonstration against communism that some war veterans had planned for Oct. 2. A number of war veterans also decided to object to the plans, but the Chamber of Commerce gave its blessing to the rally.

"In view of existing tension and our conviction that fundamental problems will not be solved," the clergymen said, "it is unwise to hold a patriotic demonstration at this time."

Concerning affairs in Peekskill arising from the Robeson incidents, the clergymen declared:

"Lack of devotion to God and the things of God in our community has taken concrete form. Acts of violence have been committed. Lies, malicious rumors about responsible citizens, vilification and inflammatory language about members of our minority races and faiths have been circulated.

"A vicious example of lawlessness has been held up to the world as our way of life. We citizens of the community must not close our eyes. There is no need to try to convince either ourselves or the world that the ugliness is not real or that it is not here. Facts must be faced honestly, and while recognizing the strength of the provocation to violence we must admit our faults and mistakes. Admitting them, let us show shame and contrition for these violent and unlawful acts and attitudes."

Declaring themselves in favor of free speech and opposed to all forms of totalitarianism, the clergymen asked that Sunday be set aside by Peekskill as a day of prayer and repentance.

Cyril McDermott, commander of the Catholic War Veterans in Peekskill, said a number of persons of all faiths in his city believed a patriotic rally now would achieve nothing and might provoke new violence and perhaps retaliation by the Communists.

Mr. Potash, on behalf of the Furriers Joint Council, CIO, had requested Peekskill Local 42 of the United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers, CIO, to protest against "Fas-

cist mob violence" aimed at the Robeson gatherings by Peekskill folk.

Albert Fotino, business agent of Local 42, replied today, saying he represented the thought of all 650 members and that the only protest by the local was against Mr. Potash and his associates.

"We protest," Mr. Fotino wrote, "your using the veil of unionism to cover up your Communist leanings. We protest you and your kind in the the labor movement, who do more to hurt the movement than the Taft-Hartley Law, the NAM [National Association of Manufacturers] and all the anti-union employers combined together."

Governor Dewey's order for a grand jury investigation of recent disorders near Peekskill in connection with Paul Robeson concerts arranged by left-wing groups, was criticized by the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups and individuals here yesterday.

The public would have more confidence in the inquiry if it were not conducted by District Attorney George M. Fanelli of Westchester County, who, as a law-enforcement official, was concerned with the disturbances, said a statement issued by Roger Baldwin, director of the union, and Arthur Garfield Hays, its general counsel. The statement also declared that Mr. Dewey, in his statement on the outbreaks, had failed to mention lack of police protection at the first Robeson concert.

In another statement, Supreme Court Justice Meier Steinbrink, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, similarly criticized the selection of Mr. Fanelli to conduct the investigation.

Justice Steinbrink said that a telegram had been sent to Mr. Dewey, informing the Governor that the Peekskill incidents showed "disturbing evidences of anti-Jewish and anti-Negro conduct." Still another protest against Mr. Fanelli as investigator was made public by Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Congress.

Representative Vito Marcantonio, American Labor party candidate for Mayor, attacked the Governor's action as an attempt "to whitewash the public officials" in the case and as a "frame-up" directed against "the very persons who suffered the attacks and injuries of Peekskill."

County Body Washes Its Hands of Robeson

My James
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Sept. 12—The Republican majority of the Westchester County Board of Supervisors met in caucus here today for nearly two hours

and decided "to add no more kindling" to the controversy that followed the Sept. 4 physical combat near Peekskill between left-wing followers of Paul Robeson and politically conservative residents of that area.

Sept. 9-13-49
At a meeting of the entire board, official reports on the fracas were received and unanimously accepted for filing. Jefferson Armstrong, majority leader, said the entire board felt a "deep sense of gratitude for the work of all the law enforcement agencies in handling the disturbance."

New York, N.Y.
Supervisor Alan M. Grant Jr. of Cortlandt, in whose township the disturbance occurred, added that the law enforcement work had been a "commendable job performed without fear or favor."

President Hits Violence At Peekskill

Columbia, Mo.
Indorses Column
Of Mrs. Roosevelt
Sept. 9-11-49
On New York Affair

WASHINGTON, D. C. -(NNPA)—President Truman last Thursday indorsed the syndicated column of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in which she condemned mob violence following the concert of Paul Robeson at Peekskill, New York.

At Mr. Truman's press conference last Thursday, a reporter prefaced his question with the statement that Mrs. Roosevelt in her column last Wednesday had referred to the rioting at Peekskill as disgraceful and mob lawlessness. "Have you any comment?" he asked the President.

Mr. Truman replied that he thought Mrs. Roosevelt had covered the situation perfectly and thoroughly.

THE COLUMN

In her column of last Wednesday, Mrs. Roosevelt said:

"Now that I have had time to read the results of all the efforts that were made to keep the peace at the concert given Sunday near Peekskill, N. Y., and the amount of real harm that was done despite all the state police and local officers.

I think I must reiterate that it seems to me quite disgraceful to allow this kind of lawlessness.

"One hundred and forty-five people were injured. Fifty buses were stoned, and a number of private cars, many of which did not contain people who had been at this concert, were molested and damaged.

"This is not the type of thing that we believe in in the United States. In peaceful picketing leads to this, the pickets do is to give the Communists good material for propaganda."

Sept. 11-49
"I dislike everything that Paul Robeson is now saying. I am opposed to him politically and I think he is doing great harm to his own people. He is persuading very few people to go along with him. But he is creating extremely bad feeling. FREE TO ACT

"I still believe, however, that if he wants to give a concert, or speak his mind in public, no one should prevent him from doing so. No one who disagrees is obliged to stay or even to go to hear him. I have not knowingly been to a meeting that which Paul Robeson was to speak or sing since the day I went to a concert several years ago and discovered how he was abusing his art. Other people are certainly free to do as I have done.

"Lack of followers and ridicule will do far more than violence to remove whatever menace Mr. Robeson may be. I was particularly sorry to hear one of the buses and a number of cars which were manhandled by a particular group that was not controlled by the police authorities were cars that were returning from the Hyde Park Memorial Library and held no people who had been to the Robeson concert."

Text of the Report to Governor on Peekskill Affray

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Sept. 7—The text of District Attorney George M. Fanello's report to Governor Dewey follows:

I am pleased to submit herewith a report of the occurrences which took place in the vicinity of Peekskill, N. Y., on Sunday, Sept. 4, 1949, arising out of a concert held by Paul Robeson and his followers at the former Hollow Brook Golf Club in the town of Cortlandt, Westchester County.

The announcement of this meeting first came to my attention on Sept. 2 by newspaper reports and by telegrams received from Pasquale Barile, chairman, Westchester County American Labor party, and Dr. Frederick Gottlieb. The concert was for the benefit of the Harlem chapter of the Civil Rights Congress. A statement made by Mr. Robeson, quoted in newspaper reports, indicated that the attendance at the concert would range anywhere from 15,000 to 25,000 people and that he would bring his own protection.

On the same day I was brought to my attention that various veterans' groups in the locality would stage a demonstration parade in the immediate vicinity of the proposed concert. Confronted with this situation, I immediately conferred with the Sheriff of Westchester County, the chief of the Westchester County Parkway Police and Captain Glasheen of the state police and apprised them of the situation.

I summoned to my office the ranking members of each of the veterans' groups concerned and impressed upon them the necessity, in order to preserve public order, of holding their demonstration parade in an area remote from the concert. My attempts to dissuade them were to no avail and I was informed by them that they would insist upon holding their parade in front of the concert area. They assured me that their parade would be peaceful and orderly.

Arrangement for Policing

Following my conference with the veterans' representatives, I conferred at Hawthorne barracks on the afternoon of Sept. 2, 1949, with Captain Gaffney, County Executive Gerlach, Captain Glasheen, Sheriff Ruscoe, Under-Sheriff Hoy and Chief William Slattery of the Westchester County Parkway Police.

A master plan for policing the area involved was thereupon discussed and as a result of this conference the police chiefs of the thirty-nine police departments of Westchester County were summoned to a meeting on Saturday, Sept. 3, at 10 A. M. at the Sher-

iff's office.

At this meeting complete cooperation was pledged by the various departments involved, and estimates were taken of the number of men that could be furnished by them. A general discussion was had on ways and means of effectively policing the area involved. These chiefs were instructed to have their present at the Westchester County jail at Eastview on Sunday, Sept. 4, at 8 A. M., men to be in full uniform and fully armed.

Saturday afternoon I, with Sheriff Ruscoe and Under-Sheriff Hoy, visited the scene of the concert and conferred with officials of the State Police who were also present.

Saturday night there was a meeting at Troop K barracks attended by Under-Sheriff Hoy, Captain Gaffney, Captain Glasheen, other officials of the State Police and myself, at which meeting the master plan was formulated for policing the concert area and the immediate vicinity.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, at 8 A. M., at the county jail, Eastview, New York, police chiefs from all thirty-nine police departments in the county assembled together with their complements of men, the Sheriff of Westchester County with his Under-Sheriff, deputies and auxiliary police. These men were briefed by their various commanders and also instructed to be diplomatic, tactful and to use no force under any circumstances except when absolutely necessary to preserve law and order.

Coverage of the Terrain

All members of the local police departments were thereupon sworn in as deputy sheriffs and were then dispatched to the scene by car and bus, and by 9 o'clock Sunday morning, Sept. 4, they had rendezvoused at the scene with State Police who had already arrived and were then deployed to their respective posts. At that time there were then assembled, stationed and posted, as a protective force, some 750 police officers.

In addition thereto, the City of Peekskill had on duty, in and about Peekskill, to direct traffic and otherwise preserve order, 110 officers. This force comprised thirty regular members of the Peekskill Police Department and eighty members of the auxiliary police. There were also twenty-five deputies and police officers at the Putnam County line, two miles north of the concert area. This makes a total of 904 police officers at the concert area and immediate vicinity to preserve law and order.

The concert was held on the property of the former Hollow Brook County Club at Van Cortlandville, which is in the unin-

corporated area of the Town of Cortland. This abandoned golf course is located approximately two miles north of the northerly city line of the City of Peekskill and it is approximately one mile south of the Putnam County line and faces on the northerly side of Oregon Road, also known as Hillside Avenue.

The concert area is approximately a quarter of a mile in length along Oregon Road and the concert stage was located approximately twelve hundred feet from Oregon Road in a hollow, not visible from the road. The terrain is uneven, hilly and partly wooded. The only entrance to the concert area is a dirt road leading off Oregon Road to the north.

Cars approaching the concert area had to come from either the east or west along Oregon Road or had to approach via Red Mill Road, which enters Oregon Road at the concert area entrance, so that there is a "T" intersection at the entrance to the concert grounds. Both Oregon Road and Red Mill Road are narrow, two-lane roads, approximately twenty feet in width, presenting a serious traffic problem on this occasion.

Disarming of "Robeson Guards"

I, together with five assistants, arrived on the scene at 9 o'clock and we stationed ourselves at the command post, which was directly across from the entrance to the concert area.

At the time of my arrival I observed that approximately 2,000 of the Robeson followers were stationed from one end of the area to the other in what appeared to be a perimeter of defense, almost shoulder to shoulder.

Many Robeson followers had already arrived upon the scene in addition to the ones above described, and from then until approximately 3:30 in the afternoon the number of Robeson followers came in a constant flow by car, bus and on foot, until at their maximum point there were some 15,000 in attendance.

Shortly after my arrival I received information that many of the Robeson followers were armed with baseball bats and other weapons. I therefore sent for Leon Straus and Dr. Gottlieb, organizers of the meeting and demanded that all weapons be brought at once to the command post. It was promised that this would be done and some thirty bats were brought as directed. Later in the day, however, police confiscated some 250 other bats and weapons which were retained by the "Robeson guards."

Bystanders began to collect along Oregon Road and extended around on to Red Mill Road, until they numbered approximately 5,000 at about 1:30 P. M. The

veterans' demonstration parade started its initial march along Oregon Road from Oregon Corner on the Putnam County line. The parade consisted of an estimated 2,500 marchers and the course of the parade took them directly past the concert area down to a turn-off near Locust Avenue, where the parade made an about-face and marched back again in front of the concert area.

The parade continued until approximately 2:50 P. M., when it began to break up under the orders of the veteran in command. It should be noted that during all of the foregoing events, no disorder of any sort whatsoever took place, and all those seeking to attend the concert gained admission without hazard, and no demonstration of any nature broke out as a result of the parade.

Keeping the Factions Apart

The concert itself was held without interruption. Mr. Robeson attended as scheduled and sang without interruption and without disorder. The first indication of threatened disorder came when the first of the Robeson followers' cars attempted to leave the concert area at about 4 P. M. At this time the large majority of the veterans, who had participated in the parade, had left the scene at the request of their commander. At that time spectators, approximately 5,000 in number, were lining Oregon Road and Red Mill Road for approximately a half mile.

As the first of the concertgoers' cars left the concert area and proceeded up Red Mill Road, stonings of these automobiles took place about 300 feet up Red Mill Road. The police at once converged upon the scene, moved the crowd back and no further disorder of that nature took place in that area or any area within a mile of the concert area.

It was the incidents on Red Mill Road that caused the greatest threat to peace and order because, as a result of that brief outburst, the spectators began to surge forward in the area in an attempt to break through the po-

lice cordon and enter the concert area. I had at hand information which I had received, which was subsequently borne out, that the group of Robeson followers assembled in the concert area were heavily armed with baseball bats, bottles, wrenches, spanners wrapped in newspaper, and boxes of pepper. Any failure upon the part of the authorities, therefore, to prevent the two opposing groups from coming into conflict would have had results that could only be described as calamitous. Therefore, all the police forces upon the scene exercised their

fullest efforts to one single end, mainly to keep the two groups apart, and too much credit cannot be given them for the success that their efforts achieved.

Certain incidents of the stoning of buses and passenger cars, which occurred in outlying districts remote from the vicinity, were called to the attention of the authorities and as soon as any such information was received reinforcements were dispatched as quickly and in as large numbers as were possible under the circumstances.

Regrettable as these incidents in the outlying districts may be, they may be considered secondary in comparison to what would have happened had the police failed to keep apart the opposing factions. They accomplished an insuperable job of preventing fatalities.

Confiscation of Weapons

Ah 6 P. M., the police had directed the removal of all cars and buses from the concert scene with the exception of about a dozen buses, which had been abandoned by their drivers. These vehicles were then driven out of the area by licensed drivers who volunteered from the concert-going group.

All that was left of the concert group by 6:30 P. M., was the large body of men which had formed the guard around the perimeter of the concert grounds. These men were directed by the police officials to leave the scene and they went to the cars and buses and proceeded to leave.

As one of the automobiles bearing a number of these guards passed through the police line on the dirt road within the concert grounds, one of the guards swung at a state trooper with a baseball bat. This car and all other cars bearing guards were then searched for weapons.

Approximately 200 baseball bats, a number of golf clubs, monkey wrenches and tire irons wrapped in newspaper, glass bottles and other weapons were confiscated by the police and were taken to the command post. The cars were then permitted to leave, carrying their full capacity of guards.

About 700 of these guards were then left in the field without transportation because their buses had been abandoned by their drivers. At about 9 P. M. the committee in charge of this group then requested that they be permitted to march in a body to Mohegan, two miles distant.

This request was refused because of darkness and potential danger. Instead, bus drivers were deputized and then shuttled these men over to Mohegan in successive trips with police officers aboard the buses until the entire concert area was cleared at ap-

proximately 10:30 P. M. The police officers and others in charge then returned to the command post opposite the concert grounds and the police forces began to disband.

Casualties and Arrests

So far as we are able to ascertain at this time approximately three automobiles were turned over and about seventy people received injuries of one type or another, mostly of a minor nature, from shattered glass from automobiles in which they were riding and from stones, far from the scene of the concert.

Sixteen people were treated at the Peekskill Hospital; eight at the command post; seven at Ossining Hospital and approximately twenty-four in New York City hospitals. The only serious cases that have been reported to us comprise a possible fractured skull; a broken arm; injury to an eye and a broken jaw. Nine police officers were injured, none seriously except a state trooper who received a severe gash in his head.

Ten persons were arrested due to their conduct at or near the scene of the concert. Two were charged with disorderly conduct, one with assault in the third degree, two with malicious mischief as a misdemeanor. This particular charge arose out of the stoning of an automobile by the two defendants.

One person is under arrest charged with a violation of Section 1897 of the Penal Law, this charge arising out of the possession of a hunting knife which the defendant had strapped to his leg, concealed by his trousers. Four individuals are charged with malicious mischief as a felony, this charge being based upon their overturning an automobile.

These charges are all pending before justices of the peace in the Town of Cortland, hearings and trials having been adjourned at the request of the defendants.

Work of Police Commended

The plans for preserving law and order were elaborate and the various police agencies cooperated efficiently. Every precaution possible was taken to insure the safety of all present. All police departments that took part in the plan should be commended for their excellent work. All the men engaged were highly trained, it being inadvisable to deputize civilians without police experience as such men, through their inexperience, might have caused rather than averted trouble.

The nature of the terrain, with its natural ambushes and traps, together with the extensiveness of the area, rendered it impossible to police in such fashion as to prevent the throwing of stones.

The reports indicate that most of the damage and trouble came from teen-agers who had no connection with veteran groups. The most important post was in the

immediate vicinity of the entrance to the concert grounds. The police did effective work in keeping the factions separated. If these factions had come together there would have been mass killings.

We are continuing our investigation and making every effort to collect additional information from the various police officers engaged in the matter. As soon as additional information and facts can be collected a further report will be made to your excellency.

We cannot adequately commend Captain Gaffney and his men for the patience, tact and efficiency they displayed under the most trying circumstances. Similar commendation was earned by all the participating law enforcement agencies who put at the disposal of the authorities more than 50 per cent of their personnel despite the abnormal conditions existing on Labor Day week-end.

PROTESTS CONTINUE ON ROBESON AFFRAY

Fanelli Report Brings Demand
for His Removal by Wallace.

Marcantonio and Others
in 9-9-49

The report of District Attorney George M. Fanelli of Westchester on the disturbance after the Paul Robeson concert near Peekskill last Sunday produced a new series of protests yesterday. Mr. Fanelli's report, asking for commendation of the police work, and laying the disorders to teen-agers out of control, was released by Governor Dewey without comment on Wednesday.

Yesterday, after its publication, Henry A. Wallace, the Progressive party candidate for President in 1948, and a Westchester County resident, wrote to Governor Dewey asking that Mr. Fanelli be superseded, and that a thorough investigation be made.

Vito Marcantonio, American Labor party nominee for Mayor of New York, telegraphed to the Governor demanding that he not "allow a whitewash as obviously crooked as this one to stand as part of the record of a most disgraceful and menacing attack on all of the civil liberties of the people of our state." He asked Mr. Fanelli's immediate removal from office.

Governor Withholds Comment
Mr. Dewey withheld comment for a fourth day, awaiting other reports, including one from Sher-

iff Fred W. Ruscoe of Westchester, on which the sheriff was still working yesterday.

At the same time a threat of a similar situation at Shanks Village, Orangeburg, on the other side of the Hudson River, evaporated when it became known that Mr. Robeson had declined an invitation from a committee of fifty veterans to appear there Saturday night.

The Westchester Board of Health took the first steps to pass, by the middle of next week, a health rule that would bar outdoor meetings of more than 500 persons unless sanitary provisions are made for them. The local authorities forced Steven Szego, the owner of the old Hollowbrook Golf Course, where last Sunday's rally was held, to chlorinate Hollow Brook yesterday, on the ground that it flows into the Peekskill water supply system.

Increased criticism of last Sunday's affair came from Jewish organizations, as charges that the disturbance had an anti-Semitic flavor continued to be made.

Various Protests Made

The Philadelphia Council of the American Jewish Congress released a statement by Maxwell S. Rosenfeld, its president, declaring that "when law and order breaks down, no group is safe, and minorities especially are endangered, as they have been in other parts of the world when totalitarian regimes were coming into power."

The Brooklyn branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People telegraphed to Governor Dewey demanding "immediate action to insure citizens that their persons are safe from the violent acts of organized hoodlums and cooperating officials."

The American Civil Liberties Union published a notice of cash awards of \$500 each for information that would lead to the "arrest, conviction and final imprisonment" of persons who helped incite the disturbance.

The Peekskill Chamber of Commerce, in a statement released yesterday, declared false the statements that "people and their homes were in danger because of their race, color or creed."

The Wholesale and Warehouse Workers Union, Local 65, whose members were well represented at the Robeson rally, made public affidavits of two witnesses who swore they could identify the persons who stoned the car in which Anthony Lavezzari, a union member, was seriously injured. Union members announced they intended to bring suit under the Federal Civil Rights Law against the state officials involved.

ROBESON AIDES ASK BAN ON VETERANS

in 9-3-49
Revocation of Parade Permit

Demand as Groups Plan Peekskill Demonstration

New York, N.Y.

Westchester County war veterans' organizations, with reinforcements from other areas, arranged yesterday for a second anti-Communist demonstration to be staged tomorrow in conjunction with the scheduled appearance near Peekskill of Paul Robeson, baritone and left-wing political storm center, for an adjourned concert.

The first demonstration by the veteran's groups prevented Mr. Robeson from singing last Saturday at Lakeland Acres, just outside Peekskill, and led to a free-for-all clash between veterans and Robeson supporters in which at least eight persons were injured and several automobiles were overturned.

District Attorney George M. Fanelli announced yesterday afternoon that an adequate police force to cope with emergencies would be on hand to prevent any further outbreak between the two groups. He added that he would be present in person with his staff and a stenographer in case trouble should develop.

Mr. Fanelli made his announcement after conferring with Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe, Capt. Daniel Glasheen, commanding officer of Troop K, State Police; County Executive Herbert C. Gerlach and William Slater, chief inspector of the Westchester County Parkway police.

A permit for the veterans' parade to be held at the time scheduled for Mr. Robeson's appearance at the Old Hollow Brook Golf Course, four miles north of Peekskill, was granted Thursday night by the Cortland Town Board. It was applied for soon after Mr. Robeson announced in New York his plan for Sunday's appearance.

Revocation of the permit for the veterans' parade was demanded yesterday by the newly organized Westchester Citizens Committee for Law and Order, which was formed earlier in the week to protest last Saturday's violence and

demand an investigation of the failure of police authorities to prevent it.

In telegrams to Governor Dewey and United States Attorney General Howard C. McGrath, the committee asserted that the granting of the permit constituted an act of collusion by the authorities in an act of violence.

Dewey Asked to Send Troops

Michele Cimbalo, chairman of the Town of Cortland American Labor party, urged in another telegram to Governor Dewey that the National Guard be called out tomorrow to insure preservation of the peace.

Neither telegram had brought any reply last night and Westchester officials went ahead with their plans for policing the concert and parade on the theory that both would be held.

For a short time yesterday afternoon there were rumors that the veterans would stage their demonstration in Peekskill, four miles from the concert site, but spokesmen for the veterans stoutly denied that any shift in arrangements were being considered.

As was the case Saturday, four major veterans groups are slated to take part in the anti-Communist demonstration. They are the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans and the Jewish War Veterans.

According to Vincent J. Boyle, chairman of the Americanization Committee of the William J. Boyle Post, American Legion, the parade will be "miles long." It will start near the Westchester-Putnam County line and pass directly in front of the golf course where the concert is scheduled for 2 P. M.

Mr. Boyle added that the demonstration will be "peaceful and orderly." He complained that veterans' organizations were being made the victims of Communist propaganda as a result of last Saturday's affray.

Orderly Demonstration Promised

Assurances that the anti-Communist demonstration would be orderly were given also during the day by spokesmen for veteran groups who conferred with District Attorney Fanelli. Those taking part in the conference and giving the assurances were John Zimmer of Peekskill, commander of the Peekskill Veterans of Foreign Wars, marshal of the parade; Vito Meliti, commander of the American Legion Post at Croton-on-Hudson; George Benziger, commander of the Legion Post at Cold Spring, and J. V. Christian, first vice commander at Cold Spring.

Stephen D. Szego, president of the company owning the golf course where Mr. Robeson is to sing tomorrow, issued a statement yesterday explaining the decision of his company to make the golf course available for the concert.

"We are certainly not Commu-

nists or Communist sympathizers, but simply old fashioned enough to believe that citizens of all races and creeds still have their freedom of expression by song and word," he said.

"We further feel that the parties at fault should be given a chance to redeem themselves from the notoriety and disrepute arising out of last Saturday's disgraceful riot."

He added that it was the company's explicit understanding that there would be no "political or propaganda" speeches.

William Secor, 24 years old, of Shrub Oak, who was stabbed in the abdomen during last Saturday's disturbance, was released yesterday from the hospital in Peekskill. He was one of the veterans participating in the anti-Communist demonstration. It was said that he has not recovered sufficiently to appear in tomorrow's parade.

INTERRUPTED CONCERT

The violent outbreak at the Lakeland Acres picnic ground, near Peekskill, on Saturday night, which forced Paul Robeson to give up an intended outdoor concert, requires a thorough investigation. In some way a veterans' demonstration against Mr. Robeson and his sponsors—intended, the leaders said, to be "a peaceable one"—turned into a riot. It may be hard to determine who started the slugging, but it seems certain that the audience went there to hear Mr. Robeson sing and to get into a fight. Mr. Robeson, whatever his other qualities, is one of this generation's most magnificent singers.

The demonstrators took the position, as near as one can tell, that because Mr. Robeson is enthusiastic about Communist Russia and because his concert was to be under the auspices of an organization listed by former Attorney General Tom Clark as "subversive" he ought not to be allowed to sing. It is true that Mr. Robeson, a man of strong emotion, who has seemed to be the friend of the unfortunate and oppressed, has recently sided with the oppressors who now rule Russia. His heart is probably still in the right place, but not much can be said for his logic. But what has this got to do with his right to sing? Or if a man can be enjoined from singing in public in this free country because his opinions are wrong and illogical, shall the injunction be enforced by mob action?

We think these questions answer themselves. Lamenting the twisted thinking that is ruining Paul Robeson's great career, we defend his right to carry his art to whatever peaceably assembled groups of people he wishes. That is the American way.

Guard Ordered For Robeson Concert

ALBANY, N. Y., Sept. 3—(P)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey Saturday ordered "all available state police" into the Peekskill area tomorrow to prevent disorder at what he called a "pro-Communist meeting" at a Paul Robeson concert Sunday afternoon.

The governor's action came shortly before a federal judge in New York City refused to act on an application seeking to restrain veterans from staging a protest parade against the recital.

The performance is scheduled to be held only a mile from the spot where demonstrating veterans prevented Robeson from appearing last Saturday. A bloody riot ensued.

Federal Judge John W. Clancy ruled that his court had no authority to grant an injunction against the parade. The restraining order was sought by the self-styled "Westchester committee for law and order," sponsor of the concert.

The governor said he ordered the extra troopers at the request of the Westchester County sheriff, Fred W. Ruscoe, but added that he was holding the sheriff and district attorney "strictly accountable" for maintaining order.

Dewey said the state police superintendent, John A. Gaffney, would go to Peekskill tomorrow to direct the troopers.

The governor seeks to avert a repetition of the three-hour riot that prevented the scheduled Robeson recital a week ago.

Eight persons were injured, two seriously, in a clash between Communist - protesting veterans and Robeson supporters in the audience.

Dewey termed tomorrow afternoon's concert a "pro-Communist meeting," and added in a statement: "In view of disorders which occurred at a similar meeting last Saturday, the sheriff of Westchester County has requested the aid of the state police in preserving order at the meeting to be held tomorrow."

"The sheriff has the power to appoint all the additional deputies that may be necessary and I have also directed the superintendent of state police to provide, for the assistance to the sheriff, all members of the state police who can be made available to help in preserving public order."

VETERANS UNITS that paraded in protest against last week's concert have announced they will parade Sunday past the site of the new program—at the former Hollow Brook Country Club, four miles

north of Peekskill.

They rejected a suggestion by District Atty. George Fanelli that they parade in Peekskill, instead of at the concert site.

Dewey said "the rights of free speech and of assembly are guaranteed to all, regardless of political beliefs."

Robeson supporters and self-styled law and order committees in Westchester County have urged Dewey to supersede Prosecutor Fanelli and order a special state investigation to fix responsibility for last week's riot.

Dewey has remained silent, except to say that he has ordered a full report from Westchester law enforcement officials.

Klan To Burn Crosses As Robeson Protest

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Sept. 3—(P)—A week of cross-burning by all units of the Southern and Northern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was ordered today as a demonstration of support for veterans' groups protesting the Paul Robeson concert at Peekskill, N. Y.

Bill Hendrix, national adjutant of the Klan organization, announced the first cross will be burned at Valdosta, Ga., at 8 p.m. Saturday night. One will be burned here about the same time.

Other affiliated units have been directed to burn crosses "on open fields or on vacant lots in protest of communism in this country" some time between Saturday night and midnight Sept. 11, Hendrix said.

He released this proclamation from his organization's unidentified imperial emperor, "His Majesty Samuel, II."

"An emergency exists in the invisible empire:

"All lodges both old and new in the entire United States.

"We members of the invisible empire of the entire United States, which is made up of 75 per cent veterans do hereby give our full support to the veterans of Peekskill, N. Y., and to the veterans of the entire state of New York. We denounce Paul Robeson and communism."

"The fiery cross is the symbol of a crusade. We command all lodges of the K. K. K. to burn a cross on open fields or on vacant lots in protest of communism in this country. The first cross will be burned in Valdosta, Ga. We proclaim this emergency for one week. Cross burning will start at 8 p.m. Saturday night, Sept. 3, 1949, and end at

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)

midnight, Sunday, Sept. 11, 1949. "All American organizations are asked to support the Peekskill, N. Y., veterans. The cross is the sign of a crusade and not the sign of violence."

"Light up the skies of America in protest of communism."

The proclamation was signed by Hendrix, for "Samuel II, imperial emperor and 4-006800 imperial wizard."

Dewey Orders Riot Safeguard

Brings New Fears To Peekskill

PEEKSVILLE, N. Y., Sept. 3—(U.P.)—Three hundred state troopers moved into this area today under orders from Gov. Thomas E. Dewey to prevent rioting between "pro-Communist" supporters of Negro Singer Paul Robeson and hundreds of war veterans planning to demonstrate against him.

Tension was mounting over the concert Robeson is scheduled to give Sunday afternoon and Dewey ordered "all available" state police to the scene.

In New York, a federal judge refused to issue an injunction to prevent the veterans from massing along a highway leading to the golf course where Robeson will sing. The veterans have planned a southward march along the same highway on which Robeson supporters will be driving north to get to the concert.

Helicopter To Keep Watch Police announced a helicopter would hover over the golf course tomorrow to relay reports of any violence.

The Westchester County Law and Order Committee, which is sponsoring the concert, said the time and method of the Negro baritone's arrival would be kept secret.

Committee spokesmen said last week's riot at a scheduled Robeson concert near here was an attempt "to lynch Robeson. We do not want to give the hoodlums a chance to get at him again."

Vets Accuse Pro-Reds

Veterans, spokesmen, however, said the Robeson supporters themselves provoked last Saturday's riot. They said the "anti-Communist" demonstration staged by veterans at the disrupted concert was a "peaceful demonstration" and that the parade Sunday likewise was planned as a "peaceful protest against Communism." Dewey branded the concert "a pro-Communist meeting" but said the incident as "most regrettable."

that the right of assemblage must be respected "however hate the political views of its members."

As well as ordering out the state police, Dewey said he would hold local Westchester County authorities "strictly accountable" in preventing violence like that a week ago when an announced appearance by Robeson erupted into a riot between Robeson supporters and hecklers in which eight persons were injured.

DEWEY ASKS REPORT ON ROBESON BATTLE

Orders Westchester Prosecutor and Sheriff to Act—ALP Rally in County Canceled

By LEO EGAN

Governor Dewey ordered yesterday a complete report from Westchester County's two top law enforcement officials on Saturday night's outbreak of violence near Peekskill that prevented a scheduled concert by Paul Robeson, baritone and leader in left wing political movements.

At least eight persons were injured and a number of automobiles damaged in the disturbance, which lasted for almost three hours before it was brought under control by state police and deputy sheriffs.

The flare-up started after a group of Peekskill war veterans had staged an anti-Communist rally in advance to expect violence Saturday night as had been reported. Officials of the Town of Cortland, where the incident took place, has asked him, he said, to "keep an eye on" the concert.

Those directed by the Governor to submit reports were District Attorney George M. Fanelli and Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe. Before receiving the requests Mr. Fanelli had announced he would undertake a thorough investigation and Mr. Ruscoe had said he had no advance warning that violence at the concert was likely.

In announcing his plans for investigating the incident, Mr. Fanelli said that the evidence he had received so far indicated that the violence was provoked by those who came to hear Mr. Robeson. The District Attorney described the incident as "most regrettable."

The Moscow radio in a broadcast heard in London cited the Peekskill disturbance as an example of American "Fascist violence" and linked it with the trial of eleven Communist leaders in Federal Court. The broadcast quoted a Tass dispatch from New York reporting Mr. Robeson to the effect that the outbreak was "part of the national terror against Negroes and progressives."

O. John Rogge, the former Asst. Mr. Robeson's concert had been scheduled as a benefit for the Harlem branch of the congress.

Roy Wilkins, acting secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also entered a protest against failure of the Westchester authorities to prevent the outbreak. He sent telegrams to Governor Dewey and to Westchester County commanders of the American Legion, Veterans if Foreign Wars and Catholic War Veterans.

Livingston Platt, Westchester County Republican chairman, conferred for an hour and a half yesterday with a group of officials who are concerned in the Peekskill incident and its aftermath. Afterward he would say only that the matter was in the hands of the "proper authorities in Westchester."

Those who took part in the conference included District Attorney Fanelli, Sheriff Ruscoe, County Executive Herbert C. Gerlach, Deputy Sheriff Frank J. Bowman, who headed a four-man detail of deputy sheriffs at the scene prior to the violence, Chief Assistant District Attorney Frederic E. Weeks Jr. and County Clerk Robert J. Field. Mr. Field was active in planning the anti-Communist demonstration.

Sheriff Denies Warning After the conference, Sheriff Ruscoe denied he had been warned in advance to expect violence Saturday night as had been reported. Officials of the Town of Cortland, where the incident took place, has asked him, he said, to "keep an eye on" the concert.

"I had no idea it would amount to anything like that," he added.

Mr. Field said he had marched in the anti-Communist demonstration but had gone home before the violence started. Thomas J. O'Toole of New Rochelle, Democratic adversary of Mr. Field in the county elections in November, took the County Clerk to task for participating in a demonstration marked by the burning of a cross. To this reproach, Mr. Field retorted that he was a veteran and a Roman Catholic and was opposed to the Ku Klux Klan as was Mr. O'Toole.

Spokesmen for the Peekskill veterans organizations that staged the anti-Communist demonstrations.

General who was associated with Mr. Robeson in supporting Henry A. Wallace for President last year, also entered a protest against failure of the Westchester authorities to prevent the outbreak. He sent telegrams to Governor Dewey and to Westchester County commanders of the American Legion, Veterans if Foreign Wars and Catholic War Veterans.

Atmending "immediate steps to end the force existing in the abdomen it was reported his such outages, citizens from every artist and every democratic institution is threatened," said Mr. Rogge, who is now chair-

its way back to Peekskill when the District Attorney Fanelli said Mr. Robeson in supporting Henry A. Wallace for President last year, also entered a protest against failure of the Westchester authorities to prevent the outbreak. He sent telegrams to Governor Dewey and to Westchester County commanders of the American Legion, Veterans if Foreign Wars and Catholic War Veterans.

Our objective was to prevent Paul Robeson concert and I P. M. after which some of the veterans helped to escort out of the Peekskill Hospital, where Mr. Se-force existing in the abdomen it was reported his such outages, citizens from every artist and every democratic institution is threatened," said Mr. Rogge, who is now chair-

man of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professions. "If our government is unwilling to give protection to artists whose political views are under attack we are lost the heritage of our constitutional rights."

Permit for A.P. Canceled

As the consequence of Saturday's violence a permit previously granted for the holding of an American Labor party rally with Representative Vito Marcantonio as the principal speaker at the Mohegan Colony School at Lake Mohegan Friday night was canceled yesterday. Directors of Mohegan Colony, Inc., owners of the building, said they feared a repetition of the disorder.

Lake Mohegan is about five miles northwest of the Town of Cortland, just outside the corporate limits of Peekskill, where Saturday's disturbance occurred.

Representative Marcantonio said last night that Friday's rally would be held as scheduled in a different place.

"As state chairman of the American Labor party I am going to speak," he asserted. "It's a meeting of my party and it's my duty to be there. Nothing is going to deter me from going."

The New York Civil Rights Congress, one of the organizations on the Justice Department's list of subversive groups, has arranged a rally for tonight in Harlem, at the Golden Gate Ballroom, 140th Street and Lenox Avenue, to protest failure of the Westchester authorities to prevent violence.

Two Un-American Systems Clashed At Peekskill

A Young Veteran's View of the Robeson Riot

By Ed Deval

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

PAUL ROBESON has a point in demanding an investigation of the three-hour riot that injured eight persons at a scheduled Robeson concert at Peekskill, N. Y.

The point is not in his accusations that county officials were lax in not preventing the brawl. At this time a guess would say such talk is self-righteous bleating. The point is that someone should investigate any such performance on the part of our honored veterans groups or anybody else.

What kind of men are likely to make up mobs like that one, charging bravely into crowds of men and women whose philosophy is different from theirs, and whose numbers are conveniently less?

What kind of men use craven force to break up meetings they object to, but would utter shouts of "No fair!" if communist ruffians broke up one of their jingoistic seances?

SUCH MEN ARE rare only in heaven. Here on earth, they are embarrassingly

opposites in theory, the Communists. If anything the greatest difference between them is that the Communists, perhaps because they are fewer, are more crafty. They reserve force to the last.

General agreement in this country is that Communists are bad. How many agree that the irresponsible Peekskill vets, are also bad?

AND IF YOU agree they are bad, what then? This question is like so many others in this world of long-range programs—it has no short and easy answer.

The only answer most men can give is to avoid violence and stupidity like that which kept Robeson from singing a few songs and probably saying some things we do not like. Of course, it's sometimes hard to keep out of a parade.

To run with the pack brings strength, but it is likely to substitute strength for wisdom, glory for decency, and victory for truth.

The Peekskill incident was essentially a battle between two great wrongs. Unfortunately, both believe they are right. I'd rather not have to choose between them.

The Robeson Incident Has a Chilling Tone

THE second ROBESON incident at Peekskill, N. Y., Sunday tells the clear and hideous truth about mobs, about what makes them tick and why. As a study in the psychology of mass lawlessness, it couldn't have been more informative.

The first blast of emotion and violence, when a gang of slugging veterans kept PAUL ROBESON from singing ten days ago, was a thing of spontaneous combustion. The second, bigger, noisier, uglier, was the product of a kind of infection growing out of the first and its incitation to irresponsibility. Mobs breed on themselves.

It spread from a hard core of deliberate lawless intent, intolerant of reason, scornful of the truth that ROBESON singing unmolested is ROBESON singing, and nothing more; but that ROBESON singing in the face of hoodlums—or ROBESON kept from singing—is an aid and comfort to the enemy. It spread from this core to contaminate and to transform into screaming, murderous accomplices hundreds who had gone along for the excitement.

It spread—and this is the alarming thing—in spite of the knowledge that precautions had been made to keep law and order. It was lawless in the face of authority and therefore in defiance of authority. In this, it gives to this country the chilling sight of a

terror that is greater than any threat of terror that ROBESON might utter or even represent.

To be sure, the mob was a youthful monster, and the first thought might be that irresponsibility was in its nature, like an impulse to high jinks. There in the pictures were the striplings in t-shirts, the shirt-tailed girls in blue jeans. They might have been the same ones who pushed in screeching at HENRY WALLACE's meetings last fall to throw eggs and garbage, who wielded baseball bats and stones in the vanguard of the strike-breakers back in the days when the Mohawk formula of "popular action" was devised to smash JOHN L. LEWIS' steel strike. But the fact is that they were easily pliable instruments of an evil that has no place in our lives or in our pretensions of scrupulous freedom.

But for the police, who were missing when the first affray started, the second might have been much more serious in results than it was. However, the police were there and the mobsters knew they were there and why. That violence proceeded nevertheless is the shocking thing. That ROBESON and his followers abet it, with a kind of stubborn and designing perversity, makes no difference.

Peekskill Riots Discussed

Believed to Play Into the Hands of the Communists

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

When Paul Robeson scheduled a concert that was not a concert, and when certain citizens of a Westchester community set up a parade that was not a parade, the American people were left holding the bag. That is the lesson of the Peekskill riots.

I strongly resent the incidents on two counts. They play into the hands of the Communists. They make a mockery of the basic principles on which our democracy rests.

Many Americans were aroused by Mr. Robeson's brazen and provocative statements on his return from the Soviet Union. The Communists, on the other hand, saw a good thing when Mr. Robeson was prevented from making his first Peekskill appearance. Communist strategy and tactics call for behavior to provoke chaos and confusion. They were going to leave no stone unturned in converting the incident into a propaganda weapon. The clash was inevitable.

Anyone familiar with the pattern of Communist tactics could have anticipated the result. In my judgment, the authorities in Westchester County share the responsibility for this scandalous conduct because of their failure to promptly and vigorously deal with the extremists on both sides. Hateful as Communists are, there can be no justification for citizens taking the law into their own hands and provoking disorder and violence. The first incident should have been adequate warn-



Paul Robeson

plentiful for some of us who like to applaud the human race.

They are these same men who force Negroes off the sidewalk in the South or set up "restricted" resorts in the North, or who object everywhere to those who are not like them.

They usually travel in packs, although it is not clear whether such cohesion is due to a distrust of each other or fear of outsiders. At any rate, it is uncommon to find one fighting alone.

The Communists undoubtedly would call these men "fascists." But the term is a useless one. It is only a little more than a quarter-century old, in its present form. These men have existed forever.

In fact, they seem immortal, as do their

This second episode is a command for the kind of action by Governor Dewey which will make such demonstrations of lawlessness an impossibility in the State of New York.

GEORGE FIELD,
Executive Secretary, Freedom House.
New York, Sept. 6, 1949.

STONING VICTIMS TELL OF VIOLENCE

Concertgoers Blame Police for
Peekskill Disturbance—

Robeson in Tears

New York N.Y.
In a hot, congested room filled with the white glare of photographers' lights, Paul Robeson led a succession of fifteen witnesses, some of them bandaged, who told yesterday afternoon of attacks by state and local police on peaceful patrons at a concert near Peekskill on Sunday.

The witnesses appeared at a ninety-minute press conference held by the Emergency Committee to Protest the Peekskill Attacks in the library of the Council on African Affairs, 23 West Twenty-sixth Street. Mr. Robeson is chairman of the council.

The baritone faced the photographers' lamps and television movie cameras as he told of "storm troopers" clubbing men who had attended the concert.

The room, lined with bookshelves, was crowded with leaders of the protest committee, men and women prepared to press their charges of police brutality.

Speaks For Half An Hour

Mr. Robeson spoke for about half an hour, mopping his streaming face with a white handkerchief. He said that what "happened in Peekskill yesterday happens to the Negro people every day in the South." When he added that "we Negroes owe a great debt to the Jewish people, who stood there by the hundreds to defend me and all of us yesterday," the tears started from his eyes.

Howard Fast, novelist and chairman of People's Artists, which sponsored the Robeson concert in Peekskill, had declared his group would "hold concerts in Peekskill again as long as there are people in the area who want to hear us." When Mr. Robeson said, in this connection, "I'll go anywhere that I'm called," his supporters burst into applause.

Much of the testimony purported to show Negroes were special victims of the police. Revels Cayton, who described himself as a trade union organizer, said he was among a group of 1,000 young men corralled by the local and state police on the grounds of the old golf course, where the concert was held. They were forced to remain together with their hands upraised,

he said, and were penned up for more than an hour. Many individuals in the crowd were singled out for a "working over" with the police clubs, he charged.

Eugene Bullard, who said he was a disabled veteran of both World Wars, said he had been knocked down and beaten by state policemen for trying to enter the concert grounds.

Ray Lev, concert pianist, an American Labor party candidate for City Council, told of riding in one of the first cars to leave the area. It was driven by Irving Potash, manager of the Furriers Joint Council, CIO, and one of the eleven Communists being tried for conspiracy to overthrow the Government.

Forced to Drive Slowly

"The state troopers stood in the middle of our road, we were forced to drive slowly along a line of rock-throwers. We made an excellent target for 200 yards. Mr. Potash was severely cut by broken glass," she said.

City Councilman Benjamin J. Davis Jr., another of the Communist leaders accused of teaching force and violence, asked sarcastically, "who uses force and violence?" Governor Dewey is "unfit to hold office," he declared, and "ought to be impeached."

There was such a volume of testimony offered that Mr. Fast, who presided at the press conference as he did at Sunday's concert, finally had to refuse the floor to all except reporters asking questions. Mr. Robeson appealed to the conscience of the reporters to present his case fairly. Mr. Fast said quietly he had no confidence in the commercial press, and the conference was over.

**Robeson Sing
Again Leads
To Violence
At Least 30 Hurt
As Stones Strike
Departing Busses**

By the Associated Press.
Peekskill, N. Y., Sept. 4.—A Paul Robeson concert led to violence again tonight.

The actual appearance by Robeson went without serious disturbance while hundreds of police stood guard.

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)
Thousands of veterans milled around, trying to drown out Robeson's singing.

But as busses carrying concertgoers left the outdoor concert grounds, stones were hurled, damaging the busses and reportedly injuring dozens of persons.

Decline Further Details.

Peekskill Hospital said it had treated 30 persons and kept five for further treatment, while at least one patient was sent to another hospital.

The hospital declined to give further details.

Groups of veterans, swelling from 1,500 to 3,000 as they marched along, paraded back and forth next to the concert grounds for more than an hour in what they called an anti-Communist protest.

About 1,200 policemen—some from bases a hundred miles away—patrolled the area as crowd estimated at 15,000 persons milled back and forth in and around abandoned golf course where concert was held.

Flanked By Policemen.

The Negro singer, flanked by policemen, arrived at the concert in an automobile, sang for more than half an hour, and then was whisked away on a back road leading into the country north of here.

An extensive public-address system sent the voice of the left-wing singer booming out over the countryside, above the mingling sounds of the drums and bugles of the protesting veterans.

Police reported few disturbances in the tension-charged crowds.

Eight days ago a scheduled concert by Robeson was prevented by a fierce riot after veterans staged a similar demonstration.

Police said they were holding 15 persons after today's concert ended. They did not say whether anyone would be arrested.

Man With Knife Seized.

One man was seized, authorities said, after State police found him with a 5½-inch hunting knife strapped around his leg.

Authorities from the Westchester County district attorney's office identified him as Robert Lent, Peekskill. They said he would be arraigned on charges of carrying a concealed weapon.

State Trooper Michael Murray, Troy, N. Y., was knocked out when a flying soda-pop bottle struck him on the head. The trooper was treated for scalp lacerations.

Police confiscated many baseball bats, clubs, and pieces of metal from concertgoers, and

took the bolts out of a number of parading veterans' rifles.

When the concert was over, author Howard Fast, chairman of

ROBERT RUARK

**Paul Robeson
Thrives on
Riot Violence**

NEW YORK—It is a bit ironic that Paul Robeson, the political lark, should demand a Department of Justice investigation of the riot at Peekskill, N. Y., which busted up a concert at which he was supposed to sing.

Robeson is of the Communist persuasion and a disliker of his own land. Therefore, one would imagine that he would regard the Justice Department with that uneasiness peculiar to all Communist followers. It is very amusing, I think, how the cop-haters always holler for the law when they get in the grease.

It's also regrettable that the hotheads who were provoked into attacking Robeson's songfest, at which he did not appear, should have given his agitator some solid grounds for complaint.

A riot is always regrettable for a variety of reasons. One of the chief reasons is that any show of violence is the finest of grist for the Communists.

"Hit me with that club, you ever-loving Cossack," they say. "Stroke me bleeding brow with that knout, so that all the world may know how I suffer."

Robeson, with remarkable inaccuracy, is now portraying the crack-up of his concert as an "attack on the whole Negro people." This is how the system works—a flock of hotspurs tangle with an evil symbol and it suddenly is transformed into a mass attack on a whole people, good and bad, poor and rich.

IT IS A MATTER of fact that Robeson has been disclaimed officially by the top spokesman for the Negro in America, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP has deplored the rioting in Peekskill. It sent out assorted telegrams to key New



Ruark

York Staters, but in the same tone of any other civic society that frowns on mob scenes.

Nowhere is there a broad endorsement of Robeson as a qualified representative of his race.

Actually the big ex-All American and Phi Beta Kappa has become an embarrassment to his people, a freak among his fellows.

He is a sophisticated disciple of the Kremlin, treasonous in his talk of the land that bred him.

ANY TIME your Robesons or your Henry Wallaces go out among the people to preach their own peculiar gospel, they are eager and willing to accept the tilted autos and hurled fruit which sometimes greet them.

Somebody ought to tell these lusty youths who slugged it out with the Robeson followers that they do a great disservice to the country and a great favor for the creed of Robeson when they give him fuel for a legitimate beef.

When they do this they supply him with the kind of material which has ever been employed gainfully by the hate-peddlers.

A MAN LIKE Robeson, who has been officially cast out by his people, acquires no importance either for himself or his cause unless people dignify his existence by a disgraceful show of mob resentment.

Let the guy alone and he withers on the vine.

**Tension Rises
For Robeson's
Concert Today
1000 Police Readied:
25,000 Veterans Plan
To March in Protest**

New York, Sept. 3 (NYHT).—Tension mounted in Westchester County tonight as an estimated 1,000 law-enforcement officers prepared for anti-riot duty near Peekskill where Paul Robeson scheduled to give a concert Sunday afternoon.

Fourteen veterans' organizations plan a mass demonstration against the concert with 25,000 veterans marching. Police estimated 100,000 may witness or take part in the affair.

Gov. Thomas E. Dewey ordered all available State police to the area to prevent a recurrence of last week's disorders at what he

called a "pro-Communist meeting," will release for special duty every man of the Westchester Citizens Committee for Law and Order which invited Robeson to appear at the concert, and Charles Roth-law. You want your rights pre-eminently, but no one else's. I think this is a cheeky application.

Dr. Frederick Gottlieb, chairman of the Westchester Citizens Committee for Law and Order, said the municipal police will be supplemented by the Parkway Police force, the sheriff's office and the civilian "emergency force" set up during World War.

All except the State Troopers and sheriffs staff will be sworn in veterans Sunday. Fanelli said all will be armed with firearms for an order to show cause why the parade should not be stopped. Jewish War Veterans and Catholic titles and received pledges they

of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans and Jewish War Veterans.

Units will assemble at noon on Hillside Avenue in Oregon Corners, Putnam County. They will march along Hillside Avenue nearly a mile to the old golf course. Hillside Avenue is a two-lane concrete highway and the only improved road leading to the concert site. Those coming to the concert from New York will have to travel over the same road but they will be heading north while the veterans will be going south.

An inspection of the golf course showed it covered with grass up to one's knees. There were no visible preparations for the concert and only a few cars were parked on an area of cleared ground.

Mr. Fanelli said that plans for police protection of the area were "getting in shape," and added that "we will make every effort tomorrow to provide access to the concert grounds by Robeson and his listeners."

In Peekskill many automobiles carried stickers reading: "Wake Up, America—Peekskill Did."

It is expected that parking will be banned along the line of march and near the scene of the concert and this posed a problem as to where motorists, both Robeson supporters and veterans, would be permitted to leave their vehicles.

ROBESON, OFFICIALS

DIFFER ON DISORDER

New York, N.Y.

Singer Says 'Storm Troopers Stirred It, Prosecutor Hails

Police Work—145 Injured

By CHARLES GRUTZNER

The number of certified casualties in the wave of violence that swept upper Westchester on Sunday mounted yesterday to 145. Paul Robeson, political storm center, blamed the state and local police for the situation that resulted in the storming of buses and automobiles filled with persons who had heard him sing near Peekskill. District Attorney George M. Fanelli, however, said the 900 policemen had done "a magnificent job" in preventing fatalities.

Governor Dewey let it be known that he would have no comment on the disturbance—the second in eight days in the Peekskill area—until he received full reports from Mr. Fanelli, Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe and John A. Gaffney, Super-

intendent of the State Police.

"There will be no comment until these reports are received," said James C. Hagerty, executive assistant to the Governor.

District Attorney Fanelli and Sheriff Ruscoe said they would make today their report to the Governor on the joint investigation he had ordered previously of the disorders at the Lakeland Acres picnic grove on Aug. 27, when Mr. Robeson was prevented from singing. They said they had not yet received from the Governor a request to report on Sunday's violence, which flared all the way from Oregon Corners to White Plains after a concert at the former Hollow Brook Golf Course, three miles northeast of Peekskill.

Praising the work of state and local policemen and deputy sheriffs, Mr. Fanelli said: "There would have been mass killing if they hadn't kept control of the danger center in the concert area."

A check of physicians in upper Westchester and in New York showed that 145 persons were treated for injuries received in connection with the concert. Mr. Robeson's followers set the figure at more than 200, saying many of the injured had received no medical treatment until they went to their own physicians in this city.

Several of the more seriously injured were in hospitals in Peekskill, White Plains, N. Y., and New Haven with fractures, contusions or glass splinters in eyes.

The charge against the state and Westchester police was made by Mr. Robeson at a meeting with reporters here that was arranged by the Emergency Committee to Protest Peekskill Attacks. The baritone said the massed police had permitted hostile demonstrations to stone the concertgoers, expecting that Mr. Robeson's supporters would fight back.

"That's all they were waiting for," he declared. "They would have shot us down then. They were ready to massacre us."

Mr. Robeson said the men among the concertgoers, who outnumbered the hostile demonstrators, had shown "tremendous self-discipline" in not fighting back. He made clear his determination to make political capital, throughout the nation, of the Peekskill disorders.

Announcing that emergency committees would be formed all through the United States, he declared: "This has to do with every American who has any pretense to thinking that he still lives in democracy."

Charging that the disorders near Peekskill and their concomitants were "complete evidence that the

arms of the government—police, judicial, even the Governor himself—are being used by powerful minority forces to suppress American democracy," Mr. Robeson intoned challengingly:

"These things will not in any way terrify us in the struggle for a free America. I am prepared to face the dangers. I was in Peekskill. I'll be anywhere that I'm called to be."

Puts Blame on Governor

Declaring that "Dewey must answer for this," Mr. Robeson, with a reference to the Governor's order to Westchester officials several days ago to furnish all available police protection for the concert said: "He sent the storm troopers. He gave the illusion they'd be there to defend us, but they were really there to beat our brains out."

Mr. Robeson said the car in which he left the concert grove had been slowed by a hail of stones. He said a State trooper had come to car window, shouted an epithet at him and swung with his club, which bounced off he side of the moving car.

The committee of Robeson supporters, which met at the Council on African Affairs, 23 West Twenty-Sixth Street, demanded the suspension from duty and trial of District Attorney Fanelli, Sheriff Ruscoe, Superintendent Gaffney and other public officials. It called also for the indictment of leaders of veterans' groups who organized the anti-Robeson demonstration, and of "all those in the mob who can be identified through pictures or by those present."

The committee demanded also a Federal investigation of violations of civil rights. Similar demands were made of President Truman and Governor Dewey by several other organizations. The Civil Rights Congress sent a request to President Truman to "intervene to restore law and order in New York State." It called also for a special session of the State Legislature to investigate the happenings and "take all steps to restore law and order and to punish the guilty, up to and including impeachment of the Governor."

The statement of the Civil Rights Congress alleged that "the guilt of public officials, from the Governor down, is beyond question in the face of the lynch-terror let loose on a similarly peaceful assemblage on Aug. 27."

Liberties Union Acts

The American Civil Liberties Union offered last night to pay cash rewards, the amounts of which were not specified, for information leading to the conviction every American who has any pretense to thinking that he still lives in democracy.

Charging that the disorders near Peekskill and their concomitants were "complete evidence that the

Baldwin said. "There are evident-ly others quite as seriously implicated, possibly in organizing the lawlessness."

Mr. Baldwin declared that the Civil Liberties Union had no partisan interests and that it "would as quickly aid in protecting, if necessary, the rights of veterans as of Communists."

District Attorney Fanelli was asked whether he would order a grand jury investigation. His reply was that one of the cases arising from the disorders would go to the grand jury.

Mr. Fanelli's reference was to the case of four youths who were arrested and accused of having overturned a parked car near the concert site. The defendants, held in bail of \$500 each for hearing Friday, are William B. Williams, 17, of 735 Smith Street, Peekskill; Samuel J. Biordi, 17, of 7 South Riverside Avenue, and Vincent F. Doherty, 18, of 11 Far-rington Road, both of Croton-on-Hudson; and David F. Miller, 16, of 1510 Maple Avenue, Peekskill.

The four were among eleven persons arrested Sunday and arraigned on various charges. Joseph Lillis, 25, son of the Peekskill Chief of Police, and George Le Roy, 21, of Poughkeepsie, son of an American Legion official, won an adjournment until Sept. 14 of their trial on charges of malicious mischief. They were accused of having thrown stones.

The Mayor of Peekskill, John N. Schneider, and Vincent Boyle, chairman of the Associated Veterans Group, which organized the anti-Robeson parades on both occasions, blamed Mr. Robeson's followers for having brought about a situation that led to the disorders. Mayor Schneider said that responsibility "rests solely on the Robesonites as they insisted on coming to a community where they weren't wanted."

"It is very evident," said the Mayor, "that the people of Peekskill and this area are definitely opposed to communism and to racial lies of such subversive groups. The demonstration was solely against communism and had nothing to do with racial issues that are being emphasized by the Communists."

Mr. Boyle said: "I believe they incited the violence since Robeson reported he would appear with his own protection of 3,000 'storm troopers,' many of whom were armed with baseball bats and stones."

No Complaints in Peekskill

John E. Hayes, chairman of the Peekskill Common Council's police committee, said he had received no complaints of violence in Peekskill and that "no one reported seeing any within the city limits."

Heads of the various veterans' groups insisted that Sunday's violence was not part of their organized demonstration, which

took the form of a parade and countermarching in front of the entrance to the concert grove. They pointed to a joint statement issued after the Aug. 27 incident and before Sunday's which said: "We were not protesting freedom of speech, but what we were protesting was communistic speech, which does advocate the violent overthrow of the United States Government and which is illegal. Let this peaceful, orderly demonstration serve to awake all Americans to strive for the outlawing of the Communist party in the United States."

Leaders of the individual veterans' organizations had varying comments yesterday. Mr. Boyle, who said Sunday had been "an epochal day for Peekskill and the United States," went on:

"The Communist propaganda mill called our bluff, so to speak, and the veterans and their supporters took up the challenge. Respective veteran commanders have assured me that their men did not participate in any violence. But they did take a very active part in the parade. Mr. Robeson defied law and order in stating he would bring his own protection. According to news reports, it would seem to me that he didn't bring enough. We will continue to demonstrate against Mr. Robeson's pseudo concerts or any other subversive meetings. We do not want Communists in this area under any title or pretense."

Statement by Catholic Veterans

Eugene T. Hack, Westchester County Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, issued a statement at his home, 2 West Street, Mount Kisco, in which he said:

"The patriotic parade of protest held at the communistic concert at Peekskill was intended to awaken the American people to the imminent, terrible threat of Communist treason. We feel that it has accomplished that end to a large extent."

"We definitely decry the disorderly rioting which followed the concert, and are pleased that the veterans who took part in the parade were not involved in this disorder."

"The Catholic war veterans can and will continue to fight any and all alien ideologies which seek to enslave us and destroy our American way of life. The backers of this concert are part and parcel of the same group who perpetrated the infamous persecutions of Archbishop Stepinac, Cardinal Mindzenty and countless other men of God."

"They shall not rule America!"

While it was made clear that Communists already were making capital of the mob spirit that raged through an American community, anti-Communists of varying political shades also spoke out against the Peekskill disorders. Among the latter was Joseph G.

Glass, Socialist candidate for Mayor of New York, who telegraphed to Governor Dewey, saying:

New York Policemen Accused Of Attacks By Paul Robeson

Singer's Supporters Call For Impeachment Of Gov. Dewey For Part In 'Conspiracy'

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Sept. 5.—(P)—Singer Paul Robeson charged today that his Sunday concert ended in rioting because "police who were supposed to protect us, attacked and assaulted us."

His supporters here voiced for the impeachment of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Westchester County officials.

Sponsors of the concert asked President Truman today "to restore law and order in New York state."

The demand for federal intervention was made in a telegram from the Civil Rights Congress—listed as subversive by the U. S. Department of Justice.

"We Charge Gov. Dewey"

"We charge Gov. (Thomas E.) Dewey with complicity in the conspiracy of the Klan and other fascist elements to commit murderous acts against peaceful citizens," the message said.

"Federal intervention to restore law and order in New York state is needed at once."

At least 100 were injured after the concert was over. Robeson's supporters set the figure at 200. Eight autos and an empty bus were overturned.

"No Argument"

"There can be no argument," Robeson told a news conference in New York City. "we were attacked by arms of the state and local governments."

Howard Fast, author and chairman of the concert, said Robeson would return here to sing again "whenever the people desire." No new concert has been scheduled though, he added.

Robeson called his thousands of concert-going followers "peacefully assembled American citizens" who became the target of state troopers under the orders of Governor Dewey "to beat our brains out."

The husky Nero baritone called demonstrating war veterans and their supporters "future storm troopers" backed by "powerful financial forces." He did not identify the latter.

Rocks Are On Display

Followers with bandaged heads sat beside Robeson at his press conference. On the table before him were rocks with which he said his group was stoned.

Robeson said his followers have set up "The Emergency Committee to Protest the Peekskill Riot."

In a statement, the committee asked for the suspension of Westchester County Sheriff Fred Rus-

It also asked the arrest and indictment of all leaders of war veterans' groups who took part in the demonstration that preceded the riot.

POLICE COMMENDED IN PEEKSKILL FRAY

Prosecutor Tells Dewey They Averted Killings—Robeson Invited to Shanks Village By WARREN MOSCOW

District Attorney George M. Fanelli of Westchester County, who headed the law enforcement agencies at last Sunday's affray outside of Peekskill, following a concert by Paul Robeson, contended yesterday in a formal report to Governor Dewey that the police and others concerned with law and order should be commended rather than censured for their part in the affair.

The report was made public without comment at the Governor's office in Albany except for the indication from the Governor's press secretary James C. Hagerty that the Governor would reserve any action until other reports, from the Sheriff and Superintendent of State Police, had been received and digested.

A possibility that Mr. Robeson might appear in another Hudson River community, but on the west bank of the river, appeared last night when a newly formed committee of fifty veterans living in the Shanks Village colony at Orangeburg announced that they would hold a rally at 9 o'clock Saturday night at which they hoped Mr. Robeson would appear.

New York (Paul Robeson Concert)

Calling themselves the "Committee to Protest the Peekskill Violence," they said, in a statement issued by Dean Morse as chairman, that the issue was not Mr. Robeson's political beliefs, but the American tradition of freedom of speech and assembly.

The Fanelli report was a "play-by-play" account of the events leading up to and through the stoning of hundreds of persons returning home after the concert given by Mr. Robeson and attended by numerous Communist sympathizers at the Hollowbrook Country Club golf course north of Peekskill.

Its main theme was that the chief danger of bloodshed was at the scene of the concert and that in averting this the police did a wonderful job. They were too busy there, all 904 of them, to do much about patrolling the roads after the concert to prevent what turned out to be the chief disorders of the occasion.

Divergencies on Some Points

It emphasized that the disorders came from teen-agers and youths who assembled on the scene after the organized veteran groups had paraded and picketed the concert grounds. On this point Mr. Fanelli had substantiation in pictures and from eye-witness stories from the scores of newspaper men and photographers at the scene.

On another major point, the report differed sharply from the news photographs, eye-witnesses accounts and arer strecord. It was where Mr. Fanelli contended that all of the concert-goers had arrived safely and without molestation by 3:30 P. M., and that "the first indication of threatened disorder" came when the first set of cars began leaving the grounds at 4 P. M.

This appeared to ignore the fact that Harold Davis, who led the picketing parade, was arrested for assault while the concert was still on—it ended at 3:05 P. M.; that Michael Murray, the state trooper most seriously injured, was hit by one of the hundreds of stones thrown at late arrivals to the concert escorted on foot between police lines, and that forty state troopers, held in reserve, were brought up to the scene because of the crowd tension before a car was permitted to leave the concert scene.

The arrest of a youth for carrying a concealed knife also took place in the period between the end of the concert, and the start of the departure from the scene.

Weapons of Robeson Group

Mr. Fanelli's contention was that the Robeson followers, armed with baseball bats and bottles that they had failed to turn over to the police—this was substantiated by eyewitness accounts—presented a meace of actual conflict that would have been "calamitous."

"Therefore, all the police forces on the scene exercised their fullest efforts to one single end, mainly to keep the two groups apart, and too much credit cannot be given them for the success that their efforts achieved."

Referring to stoning of concertgoers and other motorists after the concert, Mr. Fanelli said this was "secondary in comparison to what would have happened if the police failed to keep apart the opposing factions." He added that "they accomplished an insuperable job of preventing fatalities."

He listed the damage as three automobiles overturned and seventy persons suffering injuries "mostly of a minor nature", as against newspaper surveys of eight cars overturned, and 145 injured.

While the Fanelli report was being made public in Albany, it became apparent that for the time being, at least, the left-wingers had no intention of making a third attempt at a rally in the Peekskill area.

Doubt of Another Rally

Mr. Robeson, who was scheduled to fly to Mexico City today for a "peace" conference there, canceled his trip, and was sending his wife instead, it was said at his office. However, he had no immediate plans for another Peekskill rally and summer residents in the area dropped plans to protest against a situation in which left-wing rallies were subject to attack.

Information gathered in the area indicated that there would be difficulty in getting persons to attend a meeting in small numbers when the danger of attack existed and also in obtaining a meeting place.

Steven D. Szego, who owned the grounds where the Sunday rally was held, was fated with Board of Health proposals obviously designed to make the grounds unusable for the purpose. One request, he said, was for chlorination of the creek that flows in the rear and another was for the erection of outhouses.

Protests From Two Sides

Meanwhile, protests against the law-enforcement tactics at the area continued to be made by both Leftists and anti-Communists. On the Leftists' side, Joseph P. Kehoe and Joseph P. Selly of the American Communications Association made public telegrams to President

Truman and Governor Dewey charging a breakdown of law enforcement in Westchester County and demanding Federal and state action.

On the other hand, Arthur J. Aronson, commander of the Department of New York of the Jewish War Veterans, reiterating his organization's "abhorrence of communism, fascism and nazism," declared equal disgust "with those who by mob violence and intimidation take the law into their own hands and deny the inalienable American right of free speech and assembly as was done in the shameful Peekskill riots."

"We cannot anti-communism to camouflage the criminal violation of civil liberties as was evidenced in Peekskill," he said, adding that anti-Semitic and anti-Negro hysteria figured in the attacks.

ROBESON CONCERT BALKED BY MELÉE

Free-for-All at Peekskill Park Follows Veterans' Protest

—One Man Stabbed

Aug. 28-49

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Aug. 27—A

violent outbreak in which a war veteran was stabbed and slightly wounded broke up a scheduled open-air concert by Paul Robeson here tonight.

One thousand war veterans picketed a picnic park a quarter of a mile off Peekskill's main highway and blocked the entrance while hundreds of persons tried to get in to hear Mr. Robeson sing under sponsorship of the People's Artists, Inc., for the benefit of the Harlem Chapter of the Civil Rights Congress.

The concert was to have begun at 8:15 P. M. About 7 P. M., the war veterans, who had served notice that they would put on a demonstration against the baritone's concert at the Lakeland Acres picnic ground, showed up. When they arrived, about 300 persons, mostly Negroes, were waiting to hear the concert.

The veterans marched back and forth in such a solid phalanx in front of the main entrance that no newcomers could get into the grounds and no one could leave.

After a few minutes of picket-

ing, a fist fight started. Then a free-for-all struggle set in. During the meleé, William Secor, a 25-year-old veteran living in the Oak, was stabbed in the side. His assailant was not identified. The wounded man was taken to the Peekskill Hospital where it was said his condition was not serious. Ku Klux Klan fiery crosses appeared. The war veterans protested. Despite the fact that trouble had

Puts Guilt On Reds—

Connor Lays Racial Rioting To Commies

Blame for rioting and bloodshed in this country was placed at the feet of President Truman and "his radical followers" today by Public Safety Commissioner Eugene (Bull) Connor.

Connor blasted Communist-front organizations and other agitators for stirring up racial troubles and causing bloodshed in both North and South, in a Labor Day speech at Mt. Olive.

Some had looked for Commissioner Connor's appearance at this Jefferson County community as, in effect, launching his campaign for governor. But Connor said no such thing: He said if he runs for governor his opening speech will be at Selma.

The Mt. Olive Labor Day program was under sponsorship of the Mt. Olive Civitan Club, P-T. A. and labor groups. Ninth District Cong. Laurie Battle was to speak in the afternoon, following Connor's morning appearance.

Meanwhile, Albert Stapp, another prospective gubernatorial candidate, was delivering another in the series of Labor Day radio speeches at Minor High School.

Stapp emphasized the necessity for balancing agriculture with industry in Alabama, if jobs are to be provided for thousands of farm boys being displaced by machinery.

STAPP, BIRMINGHAM businessman and former state American Legion commander, spoke under sponsorship of Minor Heights Lions Club. Ball games, beauty contests and other activities were included on the program.

Connor praised organized labor, pointed to the high standard of living in this country and to the great strides made in the South for both whites and Negroes.

"We can become the garden spot of the world if allowed to develop without interference from all types of vicious organizations," the public safety commissioner said. "Many of these seek to destroy the great traditions, customs and heritage of our Southland."

Connor pointed out that Harry Bridges, "an admitted Communist," has Honolulu half-starved by tying up shipping and "has been stirring up strife on the Pacific Coast for 15 years."

"But if I try to uphold the traditions, customs and heritage of our Southland and enforce the segregation laws, they tell me they can put me in the penitentiary for violating the civil rights law."

THE COMMISSIONER cited the strife and bloodshed Paul Robeson, Negro, and admitted Communist,

has caused in New York State. "He caused a riot last week at Peekskill, N. Y., where blood was shed," said Connor. "And Robeson then failed to show up. The next day he made a statement that he and his communistic gang would take the offensive from now on and warned Legion and veterans groups he would be back."

Connor called for deportation of such men as Bridges and Robeson.

"This government should stop this bloodshed and stop it now by deporting people like Robeson and his gang who are instructed by Joe Stalin to cause unrest and rioting in this country so as to divide and weaken our people," he said.

Connor also rapped Walter White, head of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "who last week married a supposedly white woman."

White, the commissioner said, recently announced he was advising the Negro youth of this country not to be drafted into the U. S. Army.

Connor decried bombings and other violence caused by racial agitation and pointed out there had been no zoning difficulties in Birmingham until the racial issue had been stirred up by "civil rights" agitators.

"IF THE NEGRO RACE doesn't wake up and realize that the civil rights agitators are its enemies and not its friends," added Connor, "it is going to retard the rapid advancement it has been making the past 75 years."

"It is such crackpots like Glenn Taylor, Harry Bridges, Walter White, Paul Robeson, Henry Wallace, Howard McGrath, Hubert Humphries, Aubrey Williams, Arthur Shores and Emory Jackson and others who are trying to stir up trouble between the races in the South. And the startling thing about it is they have got our president and some of our senators and congressmen lending an ear to their pleas to abolish segregation of the races in this country."

ROBESON DEMANDS VIOLENCE INQUIRY

His Followers Charge Official Laxity in Peekskill Fight—
Complain to Governor

mon. 8-29-49
CAUSE FOR ACTION DENIED

Lack of Any Arrests Is Cited by Prosecutor — Veterans Accuse Singer's Friends

Conflicting accounts were given yesterday of the immediate cause and the number of persons injured in the melee near Peekskill Saturday night that prevented a concert by Paul Robeson, baritone and left-wing political storm center.

Admirers of Mr. Robeson who told of having been beaten at the Lakeland Acres picnic grove in Cortland said scores of persons had been injured and fifteen or more automobiles overturned by groups of men, some of whom wore American Legion caps.

Local officials, who sought to make light of the incident, said only nine persons were injured seriously enough to require medical attention and that the two hospitalized were war veterans who had participated in a parade to protest against the concert, which was for the benefit of the Harlem chapter of the Civil Rights Congress.

In the face of demands upon Governor Dewey from left wing sources for the removal of two Westchester County officials and investigation of the local police, Frederick E. Weeks Jr., Chief Assistant District Attorney, said there was nothing so far to warrant action by him, because there had been no arrests and there were no defendants to be questioned.

Marcantonio Demands Removals

Representative Vito Marcantonio, American Labor party, charged in a telegram to Governor Dewey that the disturbance had been "organized with the direct knowledge and aid of Westchester County Clerk Robert J. Field and Assistant District Attorney Leonard Rubenfield" and called on the Governor to remove both men from office. He charged also that District Attorney George M. Fannelli and County Executive Herbert C. Gerlach had been notified in advance concerning the threat of organized interference, but had failed to provide police protection.

Two young women, who said they had been treated roughly in the picnic grove, where crosses were burned in Ku Klux Klan fashion, said at a press conference called by Mr. Robeson in the Capitol Hotel here yesterday afternoon that the violence began about 8 P. M., but that neither village nor state police arrived until after 10 o'clock.

When 350 persons met at the

estate of Dr. Sam Rosen in Kato-Davis Jr., at Mr. Robeson's press nah yesterday to form a West-conference, said he would offer a chester Committee of Law and measure at the next Council session and to protest against alleged official failure to take steps that might have prevented Saturday's violence, thirty state troopers and fifteen deputy sheriffs patrolled the entrance to the Robeson estate, the troopers jotting down license numbers of cars that entered.

Sheriff Fred W. Ruscoe was in charge of the deputies. The troopers were headed by Capt. Daniel Grasheen, Troop K commander. Dr. Rosen and his wife were sponsors of Henry A. Wallace's candidacy for President on the Progressive party last fall. Mrs. Rosen said they had called the meeting "simply as citizens of Westchester to prevent such outrages from happening again."

Another Concert Planned

Mrs. Rosen said local protest meetings would be held throughout Westchester this week. She said also that a concert would be held within ten days in Westchester with Mr. Robeson as principal performer. Mr. Robeson said he would be glad to return to the area to sing.

Among the speakers at the Katonah meeting were Howard Fast, novelist; Daniel Allen, chairman of the American Labor party's trade union division, and Louis Patterson of the Council on African Affairs. Demands for an investigation were sent to Governor Dewey and United States Attorney General J. Howard McGrath.

Henry Wallace, in South Fallsburg to address a Young Progressives meeting, issued a statement of regret that his home county of Westchester had "joined the roll of shame."

"I thought New York was immune to this kind of thing," Mr. Wallace said, "and I am sure that the state authorities will take prompt action to investigate the situation and prosecute all those responsible."

Mr. Robeson said that the burning of the crosses at Cortland should force Governor Dewey to make public a list of Ku Klux Klan members in this state. Such a list, he said, had been in the hands of the State Government for some time. The singer asserted also that the incident called for investigation of the American Legion by the Department of Justice.

Robeson Assails Officials

Insisting that the disturbance was "no mere local incident," Mr. Robeson said:

"These boys were told to do it. Somebody ought to investigate who told them to do it—the Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and whoever else organized the riot. This is an example of how the state apparatus—the police and county officials—is used against minority groups."

City Councilman Benjamin J.

trial for teaching and advocating the forcible overthrow of this Government, said the Cortland outbreak was "an invitation to violence against Negroes, progressives, Communists and trade unionists."

Clyde Lewis of Plattsburg, new commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, commented on the incident in an interview at the Asa Hotel.

"It was a spontaneous demonstration by the local post, in conjunction with other groups of the area," he said. "If there was any lawlessness, the unlawful will have to answer to the community. The Veterans of Foreign Wars does not advocate lawlessness. It does, however, believe in peaceful demonstrations."

Differ on Start of Trouble

Some of the anti-Robeson demonstrators said the melee began when persons who found their path to the concert grove blocked by the demonstrators tried to rush them. The Robeson admirers, however, insisted that those seeking to prevent the concert had hurled threats and insults at committee workers and ushers as early as the afternoon and had brought things to a head by smashing windows of cars, overturning them and beating their occupants.

Mr. Lewis, who asked reporters whether there "aren't a lot of Communists up that [Peekskill] way?" said also that the VFW would be glad to buy Mr. Robeson a one-way ticket to Russia.

Mr. Robeson, asked for comment, said he felt he had more right than had Mr. Lewis to stay in this country, where one of his maternal ancestors had baked bread for George Washington's soldiers and his father's people had been "slaves upon whose backs the wealth of this country was built."

"I am going to stay right here and fight for my people and the rights of all Americans," said Mr. Robeson.

Robeson Decides To Forego Peekskill Repeat
NEW YORK, Sept. 9—(AP)—Paul Robeson, target of two anti-Communist demonstrations that flared into mass violence, near Peekskill, N. Y., has decided not to attend another scheduled gathering in that area. Word of the decision came from the left-wing Negro singer's associates yesterday. A more public figures, including President Truman and Henry Wallace, denounced the widespread disorders. In Washington, President Truman said he agreed fully with remarks of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who in her syndicated column had called the outbreaks "disgraceful."

Woman Shot, Cops Avert Mob Action

By A. M. RIVERIA JR.

(Courier Staff Correspondent)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. — Quick and sane action by Negro and white police here Friday evening averted what first seemed the prelude to serious trouble when a white cafe owner shot and badly wounded a young colored woman. A threatening crowd of approximately 500 angry Negroes had to be dispersed from the vicinity of the man's home. 4-3 Sub 7-9-49

According to officers who investigated the incident, Ollie L. Werst, white, shot Hattie Cooke, 25, High Point, in the face when she and a group of friends accidentally burst into his living quarters, apparently under the impression that they were going into a dance hall located in a warehouse adjoining Werst's premises.

Police quickly hustled the white man to the protection of a squad car and then to police headquarters, while other officers converged on the area to handle the swelling crowd. A rock thrown by someone in the mob struck the police car when it was driving away.

JAW FRACTURED

At Reynolds Memorial Hospital where the woman was carried, it was discovered that she had sustained a fractured jaw and other head injuries. Late Friday evening her condition was serious but not critical. She was resting easily Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday, Werst had been released under bond and was to appear for a hearing when Miss Cooke's condition permitted. His cafe is located on Liberty Street next to the Liberty Warehouse.

Werst is charged with assault with a deadly weapon. According to reports, Werst's wife, upon seeing the crowd in her living quarters, immediately informed her husband, who apparently was unable to get the group out quickly. He then fired into the crowd.

TENSION EASED

At the week-end, Chief John M. Gold and Detective Captain W. R. Burke were high in their praise of action by the police squad, Negro and white, numbering about fifteen, handled the crowd calmly in

spite of bitter abuse from members of the group. 4-3 Sub 7-9-49

They reported that whatever tension might have arisen had disappeared when it was known that Miss Cook was out of immediate danger.

In spite of this fact, however, details of police still were in patrol in the Liberty Street area since Werst had returned to his business following his release on bond.

Second Man Escapes Dixie Lynch Mob; This Time In Tennessee

quor regulations.

George Wilson of Knoxville became the second Negro in three weeks to miss death by escaping from a lynch mob, when he broke away from three hooded men who kidnapped him from a trailer camp near Hixon, and hid out in a quarry all night last week.

The trio threatened him for daring to live in the same trailer camp with whites working for the Lambert Construction Co. His kidnapping followed by two weeks, the abduction and attempted lynching of Edward Honeycutt at Opelousas, La.

Immediately after the kidnapping, Wilson's wife, Anna Mae, fled to Chattanooga, where she tearfully told police how the hooded trio forced their way into her trailer in a camp set up by the Lambert Construction Co., and took her husband away. They gave her an hour "to get out of town." The Wilsons were the only Negroes in the camp.

Meanwhile, Wilson, who said he feared for his life every minute, broke away from his captors in the dark and hid in a quarry where the Lambert Co. was taking out stone. For what seemed like hours, he could hear the men stumbling about searching for him, Wilson said.

He declared that he might be dead now, except that he knew the quarry and the hooded men apparently did not.

A search party of workers on the same job found Wilson there the following morning. The terrified worker and his wife then returned to Knoxville, where they live. Other workers said the kidnapers may have been members of the Ku Klux Klan who objected to a Negro doing skilled work on the same job with whites and living with them too. Wilson operated an air drill in the quarry.

Also Molests Whites

The Klan has been active in Hamilton County in recent months, but had confined its activities to whites until the Wilson kidnapping. Last week a North Chattanooga man was taken from his home and threatened if "he did not go to work" and stop his wife from taking in laundering.

Two weeks earlier, an exclusive Lookout Mountain club operated by a Jew was raided by hooded men, who terrorized the operator, a man named Wolenski, and destroyed some furnishings. Wolenski was later arrested and sentenced for selling drinks across a bar in violation of Tennessee li-

Edward Honeycutt, who was moved to Baton Rouge, La., for safekeeping after the attempt on his life two weeks earlier, was returned to Opelousas, last week. He was taken from jail at gun point, but escaped while his captors slipped a coil to a man who would kill him.

Three men accused of the kidnapping are awaiting Grand Jury action. They are Maxile Savoy, Ariel Ledoux and Edward Miller.

Beating of Man by Mob Probed

Prosecution Pledged
If Hooligans Caught

CLARKSVILLE, Va. — Authorities of Mecklenburg County were pressing their investigation last week, of the beating of a 25-year-old colored man by a white mob, according to Commonwealth's Attorney M.C. Dortch.

Dortch, who stated that the beating victim was unconscious for two days after the occurrence in a South Boston hospital and who had a fractured skull, identified the man as Sam J. Skipworth, an odd jobs man.

The prosecutor said that the beating was probably the outgrowth of a series of indecent anonymous telephone calls to white women in the county.

Clear Case of Mob Violence

He stated that he had "several leads" on the identity of the assailants, "who will be prosecuted under the anti-mob violence statute, if we can catch them."

"It's a clear case of men trying to take the law into their own hands," he added, giving this account of the beating.

A black automobile bearing North Carolina license tags stopped at a filling station near the State border on Monday night and at least three men called upon Skipworth, who was employed there, to come out.

Mob Victim Of Clarksville Discharged From Hospital

CLARKSVILLE, Va. — Sam Junior Skipworth was discharged from the South Boston Hospital, South Boston, Va., Sunday, after being treated for extensive injuries suffered at the hands of three white men last Monday.

Skipworth, in the middle twenties, was severely beaten at a filling station where he worked, by three men who had driven up in a car bearing North Carolina license plates. The men questioned him before beating him.

The report of the lawless action was made by M. C. Dortch, commonwealth attorney, last Thursday night. The attorney described the action as a violation of the Virginia Anti-lynching law.

After questioning Skipworth, the three men threw him against a concrete wall, then drove away to leave him unconscious where he had fallen.

Having been taken by ambulance to the hospital, Skipworth was reported to have remained in a state of semi-consciousness for two days, suffering what was diagnosed as a skull fracture.

The commonwealth attorney said he had information that might lead to the identity of the offenders.

"These men will certainly be prosecuted under the anti-mob violence statute if we can apprehend them," he said. He added: "It is a clear case of them trying to take the law into their own hands."

He said his office had been investigating several complaints that white women had been annoyed by "indecent" telephone calls. He said the attack on Skipworth was probably connected with these calls.

Election Riots in New Orleans

Gen. Phil Sheridan's Firm Hand Prevents a Threatened Revolt

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with election riots in New Orleans and the adjacent parishes of St. Bernard and Jefferson. They are being presented for the purpose of disclosing what happened during a critical period, with the hope that there will be no recurrence of the tragic past.

By JAMES B. LaFOURCHE

NEW ORLEANS—Following the "slaughter of the innocents" at Mechanics Institute, July 30, 1866, Gen. Phil Sheridan, in command of the Department of the Gulf, had been assigned the arduous task of making a full report to his superiors. The massacre had now reached national importance and a Congressional committee was ready to act on the premises.

General Sheridan minced no words in naming Governor Welles as the one person to be blamed mostly for the disgraceful massacre, while the latter attributed the atrocity to the general in command.

Meanwhile, Congress received a petition alleging that Louisiana was under the control of a powerfully influential group which had nurtured and aided secession and the rebellion. The petition in substance charged that those who had fought to preserve the Union, could neither obtain justice in the courts nor secure the much needed military protection.

BLASTS LOUISIANA

Most violent of the Upper House members to bitterly denounce the killings was Senator Trumbull who, in a scolding and vamping attack, charged that neither Louisiana nor any of the other seceded states had any connection with the national Government and that Congress alone should chart their course. By this very token it was at last obvious that Reconstruction was in the making, and horrible days began to dawn for the entire South.

The Louisiana State Legislature convened Monday, Dec. 28, and Governor Welles commented at length on the preposed action of Congress to ameliorate the political situation in the state. The Governor let it be known instantly that he heartily endorsed the Congressional edict, saying: "I consider the amendment as just and proper, adjusting and settling as it does, the rights of citizenship to all persons, without reference to race or color."

SABOTAGE PLOT

The legislators of both houses were riled at this action on the part of Congress and registered their defiance by wholly repudiating the amendment in its entirety. Not a dissenting vote being cast. The Constitution of 1864 next became the order of the day; it had been ratified by a minority group and plans for effecting its sabotage were now in progress.

An amendment was passed with the objective of revising the Constitution. It was speedily passed by both houses, but the hope and confidence of the wily legislators was blasted when Governor Welles vetoed the measure on the grounds that it was unconstitutional. The die was cast and Congressional reform was now assured.

MILITARY RECONSTRUCTION

Just as the Federal Amendments to the Constitution are lightly regarded today, so it was with the Military Reconstruction Act when first promulgated. In Louisiana the measure was looked upon as combative, bellicose and belligerent. The South had lost the war, but it was trying to win the peace.

But there was an election near, and Governor Welles, cognizant of this fact, warned the madened populace that, whatever was to be done as regards political plans, must conform with Congressional supervision, or the attained results would be to no effect.

General Phil Sheridan, in command of the Fifth Military District, a new Congressional creation, seriously accepted his post of trust and confidence and set about instantly to prevent a repetition of July 30, 1866. When informed by the Mayor and chief of police that they would

assure peace and tranquility on the proposed election day, General Sheridan in a tenacious, strong and resisting state of mind, informed the two mediators that no election would take place and that no polls were to be opened on that day.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

The State of Louisiana was officially informed on March 19, 1867, that General Sheridan had been named head of the Fifth Military District and that the state and municipal governments were but silhouettes; provisional in form only. This manifesto struck terror in the hearts of the people, who became impatient and fierce. They were desirous of revolting, but dared not.

General Sheridan's first act was to remove from office the men whom he thought were detrimental to the public good. Eyed as a menace to the peace of the state were the Attorney General, the Mayor and the judge of the First District. The trio was ordered to vacate their respective public offices and turn over to their successors all the paraphernalia in their possession.

This edict was received with grave concern and Judge Abell, indignant at the ouster proceedings, inquired of Sheridan as to whether or not such arbitrary power had been placed in the latter. In a few days after, Sheridan was in possession of a letter from President Grant, demanding that the District Commander account for the ouster of the aggrieved trio. Sheridan replied:

"The court over which Judge Abell presided is the only criminal court in the city of New Orleans, and for a period of at least five months previous to July 30, he had been educating a large portion of the community to the perpetration of this outrage, by almost promising no persecution in his court against the offenders, in case such an event occurred.

"He fulfilled his promise as not one of the guilty ones has been prosecuted.

"In reference to Andrew J. Heron, Attorney General of the State of Louisiana, I considered it his duty to prosecute these men before this criminal court. This he failed

to do, but went so far as to attempt to impose on the good sense of the whole nation by indicting the victims of the riots instead of the rioters; in other words, making innocent of the guilty and guilty of the innocent. He was, therefore, an abettor of and coadjutor with Judge Abell in bringing on the massacre of July 30.

"Mayor Monroe controlled the element engaged in the riot, and who, backed by the Attorney General who would not prosecute the guilty, and the judge who advised the grand jury to find the innocent guilty and let the murderers go free, felt secure in engaging his police force in the riot and massacre.

"With the three men exercising a large influence on the worst element of the city, giving to these elements immunity from bloodshed, the General-in-Chief will see how insecure I felt in letting them occupy their present positions in the trouble which might occur in registration and voting in reorganization."

Next Week: Sheridan Perfects Registration.